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The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

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By owning Britain's biggest club, BSkyB would be able to influence the shape and running of a proposed European Super League, the success of which is linked to lucrative TV rights

Anger at 'unfair' Sky deal

Inquiry into £575m Man Utd takeover

Vivek Chaudhary and Lisa Buckingham

THE biggest-ever takeover deal in football history, which could result in the world's most powerful media magnate taking control of the world's richest football club, is to be investigated by the Office of Fair Trading, amid fears of a breach of competition law.

The £575 million bid by Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB for Manchester United would give the television company an iron grip on the lucrative broadcasting rights to England's football Premiership.



By owning a wealthy and powerful club, BSkyB would have a say in any future television rights negotiations. It would be well placed to influence the shape and functioning of a proposed European Super League, the success of which is being linked to lucrative television rights and the attraction of teams like Manchester United.

An OFT spokesman said: "We will certainly have to see what the terms of the offer include. It is possible there could be competition implications, but there might be a restrictive agreement, in which case we would challenge it."

Both Downing Street and the Department of Trade and Industry said they would look "very carefully" at any competition issues raised by a deal. Roger Gale MP, vice-chairman of the Conservative party's parliamentary media committee, said: "I do not believe it is the place of media empires to own football teams. What it means is that Murdoch will have a vote at the Premiership negotiating table. It is a way of buying a vote around that table."

The OFT is already taking BSkyB, the BBC and the Premier League to the Restrictive Practices Court early next year to decide whether they are operating a cartel by not allowing football clubs to individually negotiate television rights to their matches. If the court rules that clubs have the right to negotiate their own deals, then BSkyB as the owner of Manchester United, would be in a strong position, particularly with pay-to-view football set to be

the next feature of the television revolution. A spokesman for the BBC, which has paid the Premier League £46 million for the right to televise match highlights until 2001, said: "When the main club becomes linked to the main broadcaster of live football, there are bound to be implications."

News of the deal enraged United fans. Former manager Tommy Docherty said: "The game has already moved away from the true fans and this type of thing dilutes the passion even more."

Health chief's '£350,000 pay-off'

NHS trust in crisis under pressure to end contract

David Brindle, Social Services Correspondent

A HEALTH trust in Cornwall, where the NHS is in financial crisis and is controversially closing a children's hospital unit, is considering giving its chief executive a pay-off of £350,000.

The mooted severance package for Philip Sanders, of Cornwall Healthcare trust, is 3 1/2 times the forecast annual saving from closure of the Rainbow ward for children at West Cornwall hospital, Penzance. Confidential documents seen by the Guardian show Cornwall Healthcare is under pressure from the NHS Executive to terminate Mr Sanders's contract before the trust's planned merger next spring.

Solicitors have warned the trust: "You will be aware of the calculation of the costs of Secretary, last month vetoed closure of four cottage hospitals run by the trust, proposed to help tackle a £4 million-a-year deficit in the county."

He did, however, approve other cuts, warning that Cornwall "cannot expect to be bailed out indefinitely at the expense of other parts of the NHS". These savings include shutting 17 beds at Lammellon elderly-care hospital in Liskeard, run by Cornwall Healthcare, and closing Rainbow ward, run by the Royal Cornwall Hospitals trust.

Fears for four trapped in cave

Geoffrey Gibbs and Nicole Vassh

FEARS for the safety of two lifeboatmen and a father and son trapped in a sea cave were growing last night after a dramatic air-sea rescue in appalling conditions caused by the tail-end of Hurricane Danielle.

The lifeboatmen fell into the sea while attempting a rescue in Tinnagel, Cornwall. Coastguards said that the incident started when an 11-year-old boy surfing off the beach was swept out to sea.

His father swam out to rescue him and they made the apparent safety of a sea cave. A small inshore lifeboat from Fort Isaac was sent into the cave to rescue them, but two crewmen were pitched into the water in the swell.

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In *The Guardian Sport* today: Introducing seven athletes who are on their way to the games in Kuala Lumpur

+ Julie Welch is Fair Game + Pete Nichols is Centre Stage + Classifieds + Crossword

Labour guarded on monarchy reform

Think-tank says royalty should give up all but symbolic role

Lucy Ward
Political Correspondent

DOWNING Street yesterday moved swiftly to deny proposals from the Government's favoured think-tank for root-and-branch reform of the monarchy, including the abolition of the automatic right of succession of the heir to the throne.

Among its radical measures are proposals to give the public the right of veto over a new King or Queen, the scrapping of the monarch's political powers and the ending of the role of the Sovereign as Supreme Governor of the Church of England.

Though the report comes after the Royal Family has signalled a cautious willingness to modernise, Downing Street moved to make clear that its vision of a "people's monarchy" does not come near the Demos recommendations.

A spokesman said: "The report has nothing to do with the Government and does not reflect Government views. No one in the Government was involved in drawing it up."

Tory sources disagreed, suggesting Demos, with its close New Labour connections, was voicing "what Tony Blair thinks but can't say". The report could add to resentment among some within or close to the palace, who believe that the New Labour establishment is trying to louse the royal family into hasty reform.

Liam Fox, the Conservative constitutional affairs spokesman, suggested the report's recommendations that the Royal Family should use state schools and the National Health Service reflected efforts to "entrench centre-left New Labour ideas into out institutions".

Main points

• The monarch should be a ceremonial figurehead, with no political powers.
• The monarch should be elected by a cross-section of the public.
• The monarch should be a state school leaver.
• The monarch should not be a member of the Church of England.
• The monarch should be a member of the National Health Service.
• The monarch should be a member of the Royal Family.

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While we will read the report with interest, any issues of constitutional reform would be a matter for Parliament to decide.

The Queen will be briefed on the report, and its findings studied by the Way Ahead Group — the informal committee of senior members of the Royal Family and their advisers. The group has already responded to Downing Street pressure to modernise with an agreement to reduce the number of royal palaces to adopt the HRE title.

Other attempts to portray a monarchy more in touch with the people have seen the Queen visiting a pub and being photographed outside McDonald's, while Prince Charles posed with the Spice Girls.

Demos hailed an opinion poll published in yesterday's Independent on Sunday as evidence of public support for reform. The Mori poll found

60 per cent of people thought the monarchy should be modernised, while 49 per cent believed the Queen should relinquish her political role, including the right to dissolve parliament.

Mark Leonard of Demos, co-author of the study with Times leader-writer and self-styled "not just dry but arid Conservative" Tim Hames, said the poll showed the depth of support for significant reform.

The report suggests that the monarch's role should be that of head of state, but with "minimal connection with the executive, the legislature or the judiciary".

The Speaker of the Commons would take over responsibility for the appointment of the Prime Minister and the dissolution of Parliament, the Royal Assent allowing Bills to become laws would be abolished and a Minister of Justice should appoint judges.

The report calls for the

monarchy to become "professional and accountable". The royal household would be replaced with a civil service-run Office of the Monarchy, which would publish its accounts, and a Commons select committee would scrutinise its financial affairs.

The Act of Supremacy of 1534, which makes the monarch the head of the Church of England, should be repealed, the report suggests.

A referendum should decide whether or not the heir should succeed to the throne.

The reforms would leave the monarchy with a symbolic role — more important to the public than any other, according to the report — involving educational awards, patronage of the arts and a role as "ambassador at large" to "heal bitterness about Britain's past around the world".

Polly Toynbee, page 8
Leader comment, page 9

Japan's emperor of film dies at 88

Jonathan Watts in Tokyo

AKIRA Kurosawa, the Oscar-winning Japanese director who enthralled audiences across the world with masterpieces such as *Seven Samurai* and *Rashomon*, died yesterday of a stroke at his Tokyo home. He was aged 88.

The sudden loss of one of the most influential figures on the Japanese cultural landscape was greeted with shock and sorrow by the millions of moviegoers who grew up watching the 30 films he produced over his 55-year career.

"He led a magnificent life and his films will be his legacy," said his son Hisao, at a packed press conference.

Nicknamed "The Emperor" for his perfectionism and domineering style, Kurosawa made 30 films. Lauded by a domestic audience for his depiction of samurai values and an earthy humanism, his elaborate cinematography and gripping plots also influenced several generations of international filmmakers.

Among the movies that owe a debt to Kurosawa are *The Magnificent Seven* (closely based on *Seven Samurai*), *For a Fistful of Dollars* (*Yojimbo*) and *Star Wars* (*The Hidden Fortress*).

His achievements were recognised internationally in 1952, when the epic *Rashomon* won an Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. Upon winning a second Oscar in 1985 to mark his 50 years in the industry, the director



Akira Kurosawa: "Take 'myself', subtract 'movies', and the remainder is 'zero'."

modestly said he did not deserve the honour.

Kurosawa, who was known as a dictator on the set, said his greatest work was *Ran*, the 1985 film based on *King Lear*. At a cost of more than \$10 million it was also the most expensive movie in Japanese cinema history.

Yesterday several television stations ran special programmes to mark his impact on the nation, including Fuji TV, which proclaimed: "He brought Japanese film to life and dazzled the world with his vision."

Actor Hisashi Igawa, who played roles in several of Kurosawa's later films, said the director was in his element when making movies.

"Kurosawa had the heart of

a boy and the mind of a genius," Igawa told reporters.

People interviewed on the street reacted with shock to the news.

"I'm a big fan. It is hard to imagine that this country will ever produce another director like Kurosawa," said one middle-aged man. "It's a shame he couldn't have made just one more film."

The director's son said Kurosawa had written the scripts for two films that he was planning to make.

Kurosawa once wrote: "Take 'myself', subtract 'movies', and the remainder is 'zero'."

He is survived by his son and a daughter.

Obituary, page 10



Seven Samurai, made in 1954, inspired Hollywood's *The Magnificent Seven*

TUC warns Blair of jobs threat to 250,000

David Cow
Industrial Editor

UNION leaders will warn Tony Blair today that up to a quarter of a million jobs could be lost and the recession in manufacturing industry could turn into a slump unless the Bank of England cuts interest rates this week.

Senior members of a TUC delegation will urge the Prime Minister at a Downing Street meeting to set up a task force of ministers, employers and unions to co-ordinate measures to breathe life into manufacturing — or see its problems swamp the still-buoyant services sector.

The call follows a spate of job cuts by domestic and foreign companies, including last week's decision by the Japanese firm Fujitsu to close its semiconductor plant in Mr Blair's Sedgefield constituency, with the loss of 600 jobs.

But the unions' main target is the Bank, whose monetary policy committee (MPC) meets later this week, and whose governor, Eddie George, is to address the TUC's annual congress in Blackpool next week.

Ken Jackson, leader of the AEEU electrical and engineering union, said last night: "Eddie George has one last chance to show he wants a manufacturing base to remain in Britain before he addresses the TUC. If the MPC refuses to cut interest rates... manufacturing could enter a new millennium in the midst of a slump."

But most City analysts expect the Bank to keep rates at 7.5 per cent until at least later this year or early 1999, despite fears that the economic crises in the Far East, Russia and Latin America could engulf industrialised countries like Britain and force a 1993-style slump.

Even so, economists at consultancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers warned last night that the risk of Britain sliding into a full recession was growing stronger daily, even before the Russian crisis.

Rosemary Ratcliffe, the head of economics at PwC, said: "Recent events, by threatening the stability of the international financial markets, have further increased the danger of a severe global downturn."

With Mr Blair calling a mini-summit of the G7 leading industrialised countries to discuss how to deal with Russia's crisis, Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the United States' central bank, the Federal Reserve, indicated he was considering lower rates because of the impact of the global downturn.

At home, David Blunkett, the Employment Secretary, admitted that growing world crises could hit the Government's flagship Welfare to Work programme, designed to take 250,000 unemployed young people off the dole.

Last night both Downing Street and Mr Blunkett insisted the Government would stick to its economic policy of building stability for the long term. But union leaders said this must include urgent measures now to safeguard manufacturing.

In a report to be sent to all Labour MPs and MPC members, the AEEU said: "The Government cannot afford to

'The world crisis is wreaking havoc on our manufacturing industry'

play one-club golf, and has to realise that a strong manufacturing base is an integral part of a healthy economy." Inflationary pressures had eased, warranting a rate cut.

Roger Lyons, leader of the MSF union, said: "The rapidly developing world economic crisis is wreaking havoc on our manufacturing industry."

The union campaign won backing from John Redwood, the shadow trade and industry secretary, who said the Government's economic policies would demolish much of British manufacturing.

"In one year, Labour has changed the UK from the first choice for investment from most global companies into their first choice for factory closures," he declared. "Even in tough markets like micro-processors, production continues in other countries — including Ireland and Germany."

G7 meets on Russia, page 6
Victoria jobs at risk, page 12

Gee what a pity, the disco party never got started

Review

Garth Cartwright

The Bee Gees
Wembley Stadium

WEMBLEY'S car park is filled with coaches bearing the tags of towns and cities across Britain. Inside, the all-seater stadium is three-quarters full with families, office groups, couples, even a crew of iron-

cal disco blokes kitted out in flares and fake Afros, waiting for the Brothers Gibb.

What exactly is everyone expecting? The Bee Gees' last notable performance on British soil saw them walking off Clive Anderson's TV show when he took the mickey. But while the Bee Gees have often been laughed at — all that big hair and big teeth and screechy falsetto voices invites parody — they have laughed all the way to the bank. They are the fifth most successful pop-music entertainers of all time.

With that kind of income, touring is not necessary. And watching Saturday night's less than feverish performance, one wonders why they bother. Their fans may be legion and span generations but, as one punter said on the way out, "£5 is a lot to pay for a crap seat and an average performance". Put simply, if you pay to see the Bee Gees at Wembley, they'd better be an essential part of your life.

One Night Only was Saturday's title and, essentially, the show was a 24-song greatest-hits medley from across the

decades. Backed by a minimal five-piece band, brothers Barry, Robin and Maurice sang in a relaxed, if proficient, manner. And that, pretty much, was it. For good measure, they threw in interpretations of hits they wrote for the likes of Barbara Streisand, Kenny Rogers and Celine Dion. This involved filling up the video screens with footage of Ms Dion and the Gibbs horsing around. Dead kid brother Andy also got this treatment.

Undeniably gifted slash merchants that they are, the Bee Gees appeared to misread

their British audience. With the summer success of the revived *Grease* movie, and the West End production of Saturday Night Fever, there is a lot of goodwill towards the disco-flavoured hits they produced in the late 1970s. Yet Wembley was treated to saccharine ballads rather than good grooves.

Whenever anything with a hint of a beat started, the audience rose as one, yet this would invariably be followed by something as dull as I Started A Joke. There was no doubting the abilities of the

Miami musicians behind the stars — Staying Alive positively crackled — yet the biggest hits were given no more time, twist or passion than the maulin fluff that made the Bee Gees the least fashionable band of late 1960s London.

Every artist is entitled to revisit his or her back-catalogue, and Bee Gees songs have made tremendous vehicles for great singers as radically different as Al Green and Gram Parsons. But beneath a full moon at Wembley, the hoped-for 1970s disco party never really got started.

Large scale improvements

426

stations have now been regenerated by

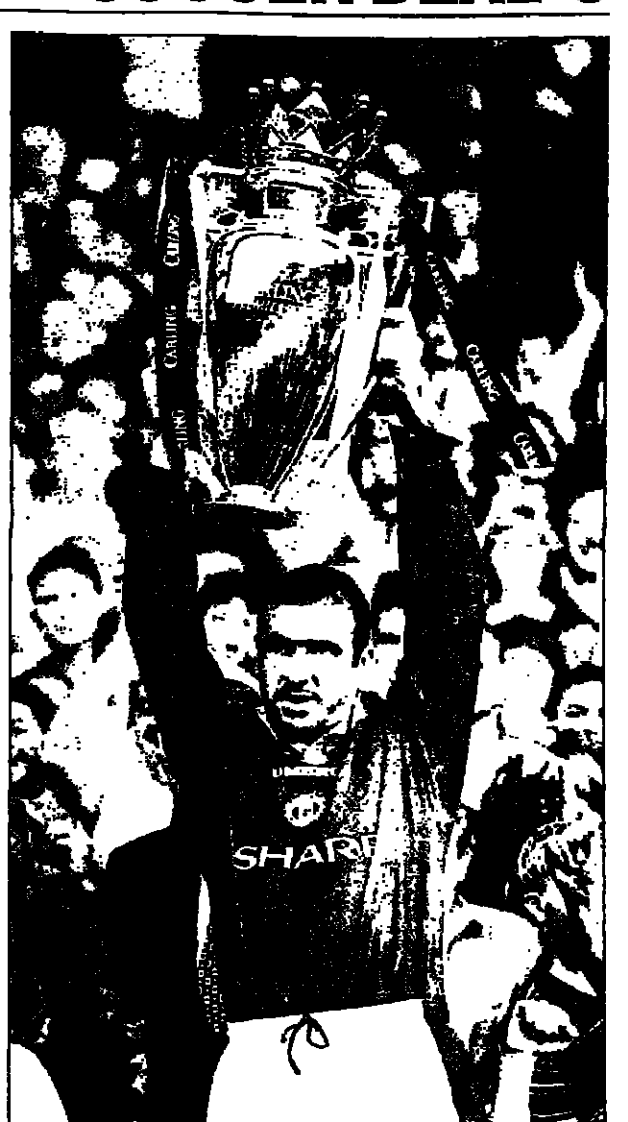
RAILTRACK

The heart of the railway

These unique fish scale roof tiles are just part of the restoration underway at Norwich Station.

www.railtrack.co.uk

هَذَا مِنْ أَلْصَافِ



Great names who have played for Britain's biggest football club include, from left, Denis Law, George Best, Bobby Charlton, and Eric Cantona, pictured with the Premiership trophy in 1997, when Manchester United did the double

Courtship ends as soccer and TV are united

The Sky deal follows a path well trodden on the Continent. The question is why it has taken so long. **Stuart Millar reports**

THIS 1992 and British football is about to witness the emergence of two sporting phenomena. One is Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB, a satellite broadcaster desperate to find a way of selling more subscriptions. The other is Manchester United, a sleeping giant of a football club desperate to reassert itself after more than a decade in the doldrums.

Under the noses of the BBC and ITV, Sky swoops with an audacious £204 million bid to secure the live television rights to the new Premier League. Manchester United are crowned Premiership champions in the inaugural season, the first of the club's four championship victories over the next five seasons. In the space of a few months, the game is transformed beyond recognition.

Six years on, football is again on the brink of a new era with the news that the game's most important influence is planning to buy its most famous club. After a long courtship, television and football are set to become one.

The revelation of BSkyB's £275 million bid stunned fans, annoyed politicians and even

caught the analysts on the hop. But the scale of the buyout underlines that while Mr Murdoch's entry into club ownership was by no means inevitable, the attractions were too rich to let pass.

The rumours that the media tycoon was in the market for a British club surfaced a fortnight ago with reports that he was holding discussions with Tottenham Hotspur's chairman, Alan Sugar, to take over his shareholding in the beleaguered north London club. Both sides made a convincing job of killing the story off.

But the signs were there long before that. Two years ago, Mr Murdoch left observers in no doubt as to how important sport is to his business. He told the News Corp annual meeting that sport, and football in particular, "absolutely overpowers" film and all other forms of entertainment in drawing viewers to pay television. "We have the long-term rights in most countries to major sporting events and we will be doing in Asia what we intend to do elsewhere in the world — that is, use sports as a battering ram and a lead offering in all



Martin Edwards, the club chairman, left, has been a director for 28 years. Merchandising at Man U, right, has been a runaway success



our pay television operations," he said.

Sky already owns the exclusive live television rights to Rugby League and England Rugby Union games, as well as some cricket matches. But Mr Murdoch has been setting the trend for team ownership in the United States where he has bought the Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team for \$187 million.

He also has part shares in the L.A. Lakers and New York Knicks basketball teams, and the New York Rangers ice hockey team. Where better to go next than with the most recognised football brand on the planet, famous for its success in the world's most lucrative league?

Despite the furore which greeted the revelation yesterday, the Sky buyout of United would merely set British football down a path already well trodden on the Continent. Silvio Berlusconi, the media tycoon and former Italian prime minister, has owned A.C. Milan for more than a decade. In France, Paris St Germain is owned by the television channel Canal Plus.

"The question a lot of analysts are asking themselves today is why has it taken so long for this to happen," said Matthew Glendinning, a writer on football finance.

The answer may be that Mr Murdoch had no need to take over a club because Sky already had all the television rights. And no other media owner would have been likely to get involved in a club in the knowledge that the team's matches would be broadcast

not on their own station but on Sky.

Now all that may be about to change. At the moment, the club negotiates the sale of its television rights collectively through the Premier League. The first challenge to that will come in January, when the Restrictive Practices Court hears a case brought by the Office of Fair Trading. It wants the court to decide whether the collective sale of rights in one deal amounts to a monopoly.

The league is defending the case, but the reality is that the clubs will benefit whatever the outcome. If the OFT wins, the rights will revert back to the individual clubs, which will then be in a position to sell them to whomever they please. If the league wins, the clubs continue to

get their large wads of cash from Sky.

The latter outcome is the more likely. But that will merely mean a stay of execution for the collective system, rather than a reprieve. For the Sky deal is set to run out in 2001, and all the indications are that it is unlikely to be renewed.

"The big clubs have a duty to maximise returns to their shareholders, and the economic logic is that there will no longer be an advantage for them in selling their television rights through the league," Mr Glendinning said. "Manchester United has been trying for years without success to get its fair share of the television money anyway."

So by taking over the biggest club in the country, Mr

Murdoch will be in a position to guarantee live football coverage on Sky — and in turn guarantee substantial paying audiences.

It also means that Sky will be able to exploit pay-per-view to the full. In May, the broadcaster suffered a surprise setback to its plans to make Premiership football a centrepiece of its new digital service when the 20 top-flight clubs rejected its pay-per-view proposals. With the top seat on the United board and the old collective system out of the way, there should be no such hindrances in future.

With a fan base of around 4 million, experts predict that pay-per-view will add £10 million to Sky/United's pre-tax profits within five years.

The seeds of United's pay-per-view operation are already

ready in place. Last month, the club launched its own digital channel, MUTV, in a joint venture with Sky and Granada. Since it is unable to show the live matches, it is little more than an electronic version of the club fanzine, showing old games, player interviews, team news and, of course, a home shopping service for United merchandise.

The attractions of owning United go far beyond the domestic game. Mr Murdoch, along with A.C. Milan's Mr Berlusconi, was one of the driving forces behind proposals for the breakaway European Super League. But last week, the English clubs rejected the proposals in return for concessions from UEFA on the shape of European competitions. Without control of a club, Mr Murdoch would have been locked out from influencing the shape of that league, and the distribution of television rights.

If the reasons for Mr Murdoch's offer to buy are numerous, less apparent are United's reasons for selling. That may come down simply to the fact that the chairman, Martin Edwards, has never been regarded as a die-hard football man. Despite being a director since 1970, and taking over as chairman from his father 10 years later, Mr Edwards is regarded as primarily a rugby fan who has always been open to offers for the club. After 18 years in charge, it appears he has finally found his price.

Club shares set to soar in media rush

Lisa Buckingham
City Editor

HARD-PRESSED investors in Britain's quoted football clubs are likely to see the value of their shares after this morning as other media companies follow BSkyB's bid for Manchester United with their own takeover offers.

Carlton, the London and Midlands TV company, is believed to be interested in buying a football club, and a senior consultant in the sector said Arsenal is thought to be holding talks which could double the price of the London club's shares.

One senior adviser in the industry said: "Forget the Super League, the real issue for the Premier League this season is the number of TV companies trying to buy clubs."

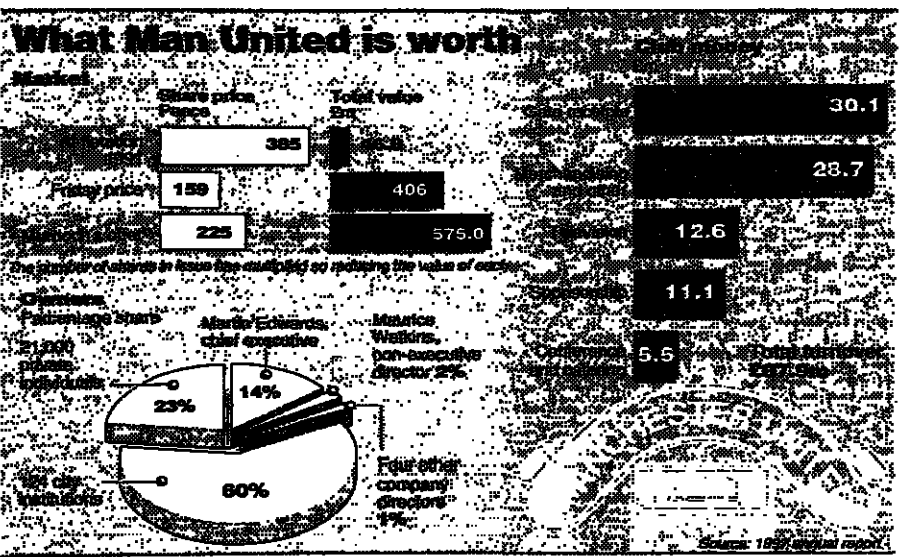
Football clubs have lost much of their stockmarket following over the past year, helped by controversies such as that involving the control-

ling Hall family at Newcastle, and the efforts of Alan Sugar to sell his stake in Tottenham Hotspur. But BSkyB's bid for Manchester United seems to highlight the sector's potential value and could electrify share prices.

Less than 10 years ago, Martin Edwards, the chairman and chief executive of Manchester United, could not find anyone to take the club off his hands for £20 million. When its shares were floated in 1991, Manchester United had a price tag of \$47 million and was making profits of less than £5 million a year.

By the end of last week the club's value had climbed to £240.6 million. Now BSkyB's bid — thought to be worth £225p a share and likely to be announced to the Stock Exchange this morning — will catapult that to £275 million, 20 times last year's profits.

Mr Edwards's 14 per cent holding is now worth £20 million, and the thousands of Manchester United fans who ploughed £200 into shares at



the time of flotation would be sitting on a nest egg worth possibly £2.830.

City experts said last night there was a chance of a rival bid from the Granada television group — which is a partner in Manchester United TV alongside the football club and Sky. Granada is an 11 per cent shareholder in BSkyB, and a founder member of British Digital Broadcasting, to which Sky is contracted. Until recently its chairman,

Gerry Robinson, was chairman of BSkyB.

United News, the media group which owns a range of businesses including the Daily Express and Meridian TV, has also been tipped as a potential bidder, but with BSkyB opening the bidding at £275 million, the price is regarded as too high.

The importance of television to the best performing Premier League clubs is demonstrated in Manchester United's recent figures, which show that last year television contributed £12 million in revenue, compared with £20 million of gate receipts and £27 million from merchandising. Five years ago, television earnings were worth less than £4 million.

But sport, particularly football, is probably even more important to the big media players — which is why BSkyB is currently paying about £140 million a year to the Premier League, a figure topped up by another £18 million from the BBC.

Protesting fans see red in the shadow of Sir Matt

Martin Walker

RUPERT Murdoch's eyes have been on Manchester United for some time, via three huge billboards for MUTV — "Live and breathes United seven days a week" — which stare across the Old Trafford car park.

Their slogan for the Sky-linked service — "Get Closer" — read ironically to fans who called at the ground yesterday to register protests at the feet of Sir Matt Busby's statue.

"Today deal," said Pete Maney, a bricklayer from Manchester. "Looks like we'll

get even less of a say than we have under Martin Edwards." Unless manager Alex Ferguson had used his muscle to impose conditions, "Man U's going to be governed from a long way away."

Sophie, aged 12, and her brother Patrick, five, made the same point with a cynical For Sale sign. "They've done it because they're the lifeblood of the club and it is being sold from underneath them," their dad said, as Patrick eyed the £13 teddies and £2 bedroom door plaques in the club's shop.

Lilliput versions of the Murdoch deal were under

way at the tills, with the stadium changing hands several times for £4 — which buys a 350-piece Old Trafford jigsaw puzzle. Puzzling out the bid's implications became part of the chat on the guided tours.

"I'm not going to say it's bad, definite, without finding out more," said Streatham postman Joseph Howe, one of scores of Cockney Reds — London supporters — up for a day trip to the ground.

"It could be in the interests of the club — they've been pretty clever management so far. The only worry is that linking them to the name of Murdoch may do damage."

'A lot of families can't afford to come to the game and now they may not be able to watch it on telly without paying as well'

A father and son from Birmingham also thought an extra halfpenny could come in handy. The dad had heard they could not expand Old Trafford because of the railway. Maybe they could buy that now, too.

"Foreign" fans like these easily outnumbered Mancunians, proving one of the points spotted by Murdoch — the club's borders do not end at the Manchester ring road.

The Rupechester outfit would be money, not game-based, said one fan, a sales manager, echoing the comment of Andy Walsh, spokesman for the club's fans associ-

ation. Mr Edwards, said Walsh, knew "the value of nothing and the price of everything" and was selling the club and its supporters down the ship canal.

Ticket-holder Peter Wilson, a car worker from Denton, Manchester, predicted the club's withdrawal from the Premier League — and from the reach of ordinary pockets.

"I think it would inevitably mean a faster move to a European Super League and pay-per-view games on TV. A lot of families can't afford to come to the game and now may not be able to watch it on telly without paying as well."

MICHAEL DIBDIN & LIBBY PURVES
Tuesday 8 September

CHRIS PATTEN
Monday 14 September

JULIAN BARNES & IAN McEWAN
Tuesday 15 September

ALAN CLARK **RICHARD E. GRANT**
Wednesday 16 September

Author Events at Dillons, Gower Street this Autumn

DR EDWARD O. WILSON
Tuesday 22 September

PROFESSOR PAUL DAVIES
Thursday 24 September

DR RAI PERSAUD
Monday 24 September

HOWARD MARKS **JOE SIMPSON**
Monday 5 October

BEN ELTON **GORE VIDAL**
Wednesday 7 October

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH
Monday 26 October

BENEDICT ALLEN
Tuesday 27 October

ROGER SCRUTON
Wednesday 4 November

RICHARD DAWKINS
Thursday 5 November

KATHY LETTE **PAUL ORMEROD**
Monday 9 November

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RUC officer fighting for his life after blast

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

AN RUC officer was fighting for his life last night after receiving serious head injuries when a blast bomb was thrown at police during loyalist rioting in Portadown.

Another policeman suffered leg injuries when officers came under a hail of the home-made bombs as they sought to quell rioting on the Corcoran estate, stronghold of the hardline Loyalist Volunteer Force. The clashes followed earlier running battles on Saturday after a Right to March demonstration in the County Armagh town. The attack on the 30-year-

old officer, a father of three, was a stark reminder of the continuing violence in Northern Ireland despite last week's momentous progress towards a new form of government in the province. Other incidents yesterday included the punishment beating of two men in loyalist east Belfast, which left one seriously hurt.

And the Real IRA's bomb in Omagh claimed its 29th victim three weeks after it exploded in the County Tyrone town. Sean McGrath, 61, married with two sons and two daughters, died at the Royal Victoria hospital in Belfast. Mr McGrath was in Omagh for a haircut but had found the shop was shut because the owner was attending a wedding. Two women remain in

critical condition, with another 29 of the 220 injured still receiving hospital treatment. Tom Craig, RUC assistant chief constable, condemned the violence in Portadown, which saw two Catholic-owned businesses burned out. Mr Craig said: "I call on all community leaders to condemn this violence and intimidation unreservedly and work to establish good community relations for the good of the citizens of this town."

Northern Ireland's political leaders meet at Stormont today to try to agree more progress before next Monday, when the 100-seat assembly reconvenes. David Trimble, First Minister and Ulster Unionist leader, will chair the meeting, and will be forced to talk for the first time with

Gerry Adams, Sinn Féin president. Mr Trimble will meet Mr Adams as early as tomorrow, where he will tell him that IRA decommissioning has to begin before he will agree to Sinn Féin taking up its two places in the 12-member power-sharing executive.

Mr Trimble said yesterday he would refuse to shake Mr Adams's hand, because "when he holds forward his hands, it's got two tonnes of Semtex, 600 AK 47 rifles and God knows what else in it".

Mr Trimble met his 110-member UUP executive council on Saturday and felt the mood backed his approach to confront Sinn Féin. The initial stage will be to form a shadow executive before Northern Ireland functions are devolved in February.



Peter Smith (left), Gillian Harvey and Ian Brown, found axed to death last week in a flat in Slough.

'Triple axe killer is dangerous'

Police appeal to public in hunt for 'vicious' attacker of three in flat

Amelia Gentleman

THE detective heading the search for the killer of three people with an axe described the murderer yesterday as dangerous and warned that this person could strike again.

Detective Superintendent Trevor Davies said there were still no suspects nor any indication of motive, three days after the bodies of the three friends were found rotting in a

flat in Berkshire. Gillian Harvey, aged 30, her boyfriend Ian Brown, a decorator aged 36, and her former boyfriend Peter Smith, a railway worker aged 31, were discovered up to eight days after they were killed. A neighbour had rung the police to complain of a terrible smell.

Post mortems showed they died from multiple blows to the head, and an 18in axe was taken from the flat in Welling Road, Slough, where Ms Harvey lived with Mr Brown,

for forensic analysis. Mr Davies said the scene that confronted officers was "quite appalling". The person who carried this out has got to be deranged in some way... I can't see anyone sane doing it. The viciousness of the attack makes it imperative we get this person off the streets without delay.

Despite the lack of suspects, or even any certainty about the number of people involved, he said the inquiry was making progress. "We are keeping an open mind as to motive, and we have not discounted anything - whether it be theft, sexual or any other motive."

There was no sign of a forced entry into the flat, but it did not appear that the killings were the result of quarrel among the three, he said. "They were very, very good friends."

Appealing for the public's help in finding the murderer, he added: "It is the duty of everyone who knows anything at all about these murders to come forward. Together we have to find the person responsible."

Thirty detectives had been assigned to the case, he said. Forensic experts had spent hours working inside the flat. "I pay tribute to the officers involved for the professional way they have shown in very

distressing circumstances. The scene of the crime officers have been working in quite appalling conditions."

He paid tribute to the victims' families. "They are deeply distressed but have tried in every way to help us."

Results of forensic tests on the wooden-handled axe are expected soon. Mr Davies said he still hoped to find out if, and how, one person had overwhelmed three people.

Police said all the victims were born and grew up in Slough. A friend said yesterday: "Peter and Ian were lovely people, very easy-going and Ian and Gillian were very close."

Stress puts birth at risk

Amelia Gentleman

WOMEN in stressful jobs run an increased risk of giving birth prematurely, the largest ever study of prematurity has found.

Women who work more than 40 hours a week in demanding professions are 40 per cent more likely to give birth prematurely. More than a third of babies born severely premature - between 24 and 32 weeks - fail to survive.

The study showed that a woman is 100 per cent more likely to give birth prematurely if she is poor, single and left school at 16. Women in jobs which are strenuous, or which require long commutes (especially by car rather than by rail), also run an increased risk. The danger of smoking was confirmed.

Gian Carlo Di Renzo, a professor in prenatal medicine at the University of Perugia in Italy, analysed nearly 16,000

Hawking for animal experiments

Tim Radford
Science Editor

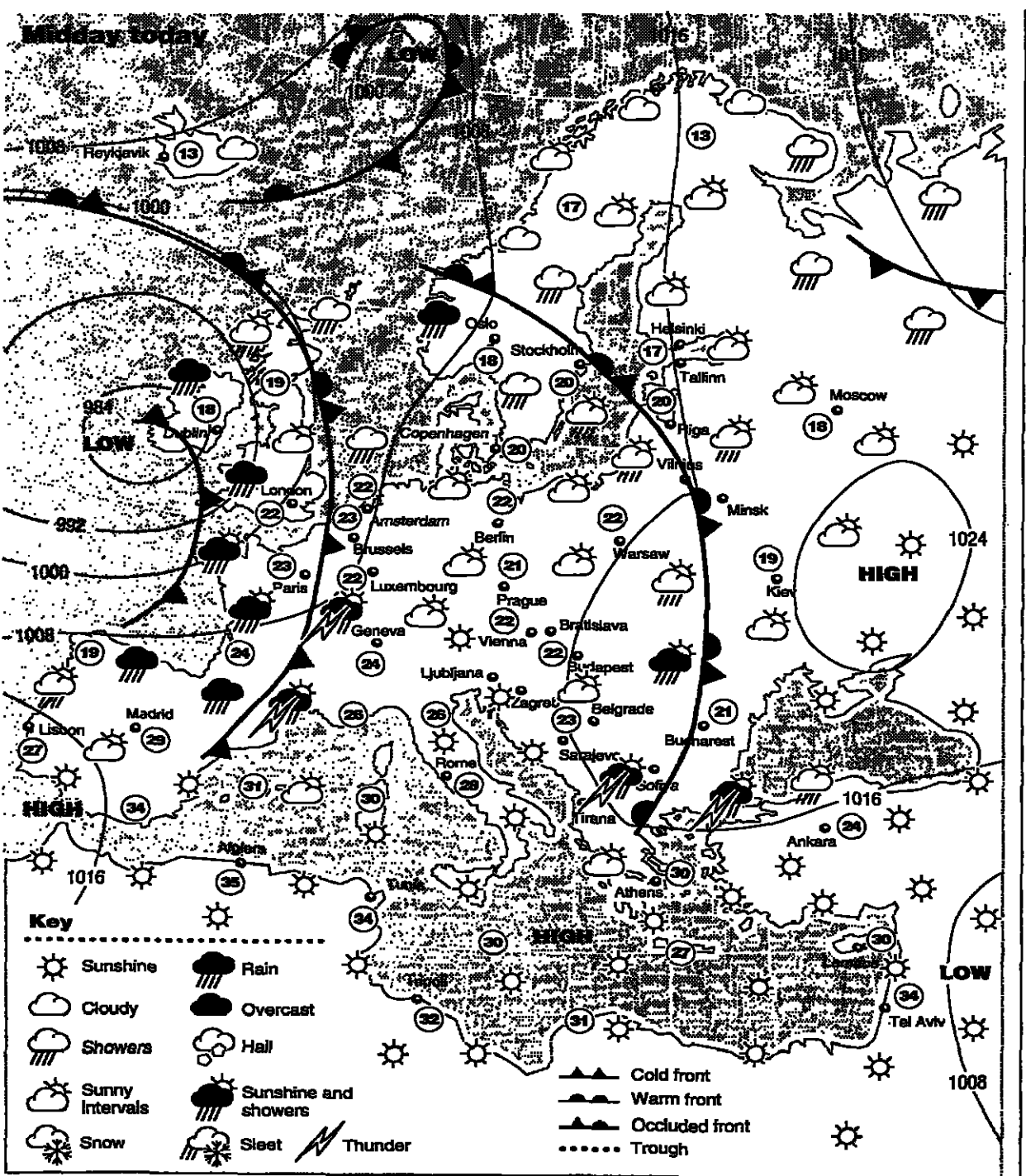
STEPHEN HAWKING, who has lived for more than 20 years with the wasting disease motor neurone disease, has spoken up for experiments on animals.

Professor Hawking, cosmologist and successor to Sir Isaac Newton's chair at Cambridge, has become a patron of a pressure group, Seriously Ill For

Medical Research. "I think the fuss over the use of animals is ridiculous," he said yesterday. "Why is it worse to use animal experiments to save lives than to eat them, which the majority of the population are happy to do? I suspect that vegetarians turn to animal rights from a lack of the more worthwhile causes of the past, like nuclear disarmament."

He timed his words to coincide with a debate in Cardiff last night on animal experi-

The weather in Europe



| Forecast for the cities | | | |
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| Athens 22 14 S | Athens 22 14 S | Athens 22 14 S | Athens 22 14 S |
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| Bombay 24 16 S | Bombay 24 16 S | Bombay 24 16 S | Bombay 24 16 S |
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| Warsaw 22 14 S | Warsaw 22 14 S | Warsaw 22 14 S | Warsaw 22 14 S |
| Yokohama 22 14 S | Yokohama 22 14 S | Yokohama 22 14 S | Yokohama 22 14 S |

C, cloudy; D, drizzle; F, fair; G, fog; H, hail; R, rain; S, sleet; Sn, snow; S, sunny; Th, thunder. (previous day's readings)

Television and radio

BBC 1

7.00am News, 7.30am News, 8.00am News, 8.30am News, 9.00am News, 9.30am News, 10.00am News, 10.30am News, 11.00am News, 11.30am News, 12.00pm News, 12.30pm News, 1.00pm News, 1.30pm News, 2.00pm News, 2.30pm News, 3.00pm News, 3.30pm News, 4.00pm News, 4.30pm News, 5.00pm News, 5.30pm News, 6.00pm News, 6.30pm News, 7.00pm News, 7.30pm News, 8.00pm News, 8.30pm News, 9.00pm News, 9.30pm News, 10.00pm News, 10.30pm News, 11.00pm News, 11.30pm News, 12.00am News, 12.30am News, 1.00am News, 1.30am News, 2.00am News, 2.30am News, 3.00am News, 3.30am News, 4.00am News, 4.30am News, 5.00am News, 5.30am News, 6.00am News, 6.30am News, 7.00am News, 7.30am News, 8.00am News, 8.30am News, 9.00am News, 9.30am News, 10.00am News, 10.30am News, 11.00am News, 11.30am News, 12.00am News, 12.30am News, 1.00am News, 1.30am News, 2.00am News, 2.30am News, 3.00am News, 3.30am News, 4.00am News, 4.30am News, 5.00am News, 5.30am News, 6.00am News, 6.30am News, 7.00am News, 7.30am News, 8.00am News, 8.30am 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Unprecedented appeal by Westminster Abbey musician sacked for alleged financial misconduct

Heath backs axed organist

Madeleine Bunting and Sarah Hall

THE former Tory prime minister Sir Edward Heath will head a list of Establishment figures to endorse Westminster Abbey's sacked organist Martin Neary at an unprecedented appeal hearing this week.

Sir Edward is to be a main character witness for a man he has known for almost 40 years, and who was dismissed for alleged financial misconduct amounting to gross misconduct last April.

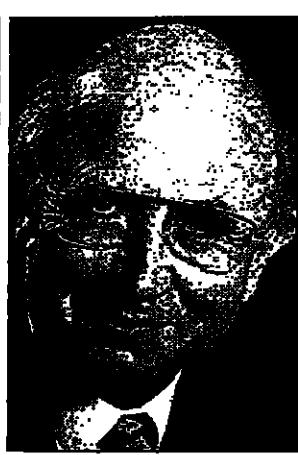
Other character witnesses are believed to include Frank Field — the former minister for welfare who accused the Dean of Westminster, Wesley Carr, of being "nothing but a bully" when Dr Neary and his wife Penny were suspended

in March — John Taylor, the former bishop of Winchester, and Colin Semper, the Abbey's former canon treasurer.

Yesterday, Sir Edward himself a keen organist and prominent member of the music establishment — confirmed he had provided a witness statement which will be read at the hearing, which is due to start on Wednesday before a retired law lord appointed by the Queen.

But he denied he would be appearing at the appeal, at which reporting is not permitted. "I have given no undertaking to do such a thing. I was told a written statement would be sufficient. We must wait and see if I am required to attend. Quite honestly, I don't know what the court's powers are," he said.

The former prime minister refused to give details of his statement, but said he felt



'When I was at No 10, he arranged all the music for us, and married the daughter of my doctor'

Sir Edward Heath on Martin Neary, left

moved by the longevity of their friendship to back the beleaguered organist, who was honoured by the Queen for his work on the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales.

"When I was at Number 10, he arranged all the music for us, and he married the daughter of my doctor, so I have seen

him from very close quarters," said Sir Edward. He added that Dr Neary, whose supporters include the former Tory minister John Gummer and composer John Tavener, had a "substantial" number of prominent backers.

The hearing, to be held at an undisclosed location, will be heard by Lord Jauncey of Tullichettle, at which Dr Neary will argue he was unfairly dismissed. It coincides with the release of a CD of church music by Dr Neary entitled "Perfect Peace".

The CD, which credits Dr Neary as the conductor, features a compilation of previous recordings of the Abbey choir, and includes all the music heard at the late princess's funeral. Several choristers appear to have been unaware of its existence until they saw it on sale in shops last week.

Dr Neary's departure opened up a Trollopian intrigue, with the dean being attacked for being allegedly dictatorial in his handling of the affair, and Dr Neary accused of running a petty fiefdom, arranging contracts and fees through a private company, Neary Music Ltd.

After his sacking, the organist appealed to the Queen, who is the ultimate authority of Westminster Abbey, which, as a Royal Peculiar is outside the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London. The Queen passed the case to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine, who in turn has passed it to Lord Jauncey.

The Prime Minister's wife Cherie Booth, QC, appeared for Dr Neary at his dismissal hearing, but Wednesday's appeal will be conducted by a senior member of her Chambers, Patrick Elias, QC.

Libya suspects Lockerbie 'ploy'

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

LIBYA will hand over the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing, but only if it receives guarantees that Holland will be the "last stop" in the legal process, it emerged at the weekend.

In his latest comments on the case, the Libyan leader Colonel Gaddafi said he suspected the Anglo-American offer of a trial under Scottish law in The Hague was a ploy to transfer the defendants to Britain.

"We are prepared to go to the Netherlands, provided that the Netherlands is the last stop in case of acquittal or conviction," he told a rally in the Libyan capital Tripoli.

Col Gaddafi, celebrating the 29th anniversary of the coup that brought him to power, said this was not the first time a third country that Libya had demanded, but a deal "to make the third country a transit point to transfer the accused to Britain."

Foreign Office officials repeated that the offer, announced last month in an attempt to end the long impasse

in the affair, was not negotiable. Any clarification of technical or legal details must be sought through the United Nations secretary-general, they said.

But one clear condition is that the two accused, Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, described as Libyan intelligence agents, serve their sentences in Britain if convicted.

Before this latest twist, diplomats were privately confident that there was more than an even chance of a handover, hinting that two individuals, and not the Libyan state, were on trial for the murder of 270 people on Pan Am flight 103 in December 1988.

Libya would be aware of the precedent of last year's Mykonos trial in Germany in which Iranian agents were convicted of terrorist killings and senior Iranian government officials implicated, yet after protests full diplomatic relations quickly resumed.

Col Gaddafi is also under pressure from allies in the Arab League and Organisation of African Unity who campaigned hard to persuade London and Washington to drop their refusal to compromise over the trial venue.



Michael Parkin outside his gallery in Belgravia, London, which is to close at the end of the year. PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARRON

Galleries closing as rising rents put pressure on art dealers

Stephen Moss on end of a bohemian outpost as 'fashion' shops take over

ONE of London's longest established art dealers, Michael Parkin, is to close his gallery in Belgravia. His decision, coinciding with two other closures nearby, marks the end of the area as a bohemian outpost and underlines the problems which smaller art dealers have faced in the 1990s.

He blamed a variety of factors: difficult trading conditions, the increasing control of the art market by Sotheby's and Christie's, and a hike in rents. He said landlords were deliberately forcing out art dealers to make way for clothes shops, hairdressers and a proposed supermarket.

Mr Parkin, who is 68, was one of the pioneers of the ITV network, ran the pirate station Radio Caroline in the 1960s, and was married to the novelist Molly Parkin. In 1969 he abandoned the media for the calmer waters of art; his was one of the first commercial galleries to put on themed shows.

He specialised in British artists, especially Whistler and his pupils. He said in his heyday the area was filled with galleries, but in the face of competition from shops able to pay higher rents they had dwindled.

"Knightsbridge has changed. It's just fashion shops. The sense of a village has gone. There was a great feeling of an artistic mélange, but that all went with the start of the recession in 1990."

He will close at the end of the year, and the nearby Sally Hunter gallery will close a few months later. Ms Hunter has also struggled since the crash of the early 1990s: "Most people in the business have lost money in the past 10 years. We have new landlords and they have made it plain that their preference is for hairdressers and shoe shops."

London's other traditional home for commercial galleries, Mayfair, is also changing. The Roy Miles gallery closed recently, and Godfrey Pilkington, whose Piccadilly Gallery recently moved out of Cork Street, agreed that the business was changing. "It seems that some people will buy pictures they don't like because they've been told they are good."

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The Guardian

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News in brief

Ecstasy suspected in death of youth

A 16-year-old boy died yesterday outside a nightclub after reportedly taking ecstasy. The teenager had been to the After Dark club in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, with four friends, and began to feel unwell later. He was helped to a bench outside to get fresh air. At about 7.30am an emergency call was made from a phone kiosk, and he was taken to the South Tyneside District general hospital, but was dead on arrival.

A spokesman for Northumbria police said witnesses had suggested the youth had taken ecstasy tablets, but a post mortem examination proved inconclusive. The results of toxicology tests are awaited.

Falling tree kills two

A BRITISH couple working for a travel firm were killed in a freak accident in Spain when a tree fell on their tent as they slept. Belgun Sar, aged 23, from Oswestry and her partner Mark Burroughs, 26, from Widdowson in Pontypool, South Wales, were fatally injured late on Friday night at the Las Dunas campsite, near Sant Pere Pescador on the Costa Brava.

They were both employees of the Cheshire-based company Eurocamp Travel, whose spokesman said last night: "Eurocamp will be liaising with the local police and the owners of the campsite, to find out how this tragic accident occurred. The Eurocamp area manager has been at the site since early this morning with the campsite owners, the local police and the British consulate."

Drugs haul put at £100m

IRISH police yesterday put the estimated value of a cocaine haul found on board a yacht at about £100 million. More than 300 kilograms of the drug have been uncovered on the Spanish-registered catamaran Gemelos since its arrival at Kinsale, Co Cork, late last week.

Tests found the drug to be of a particularly high quality and the earlier estimate of its value has been increased, making the find the biggest in Irish history. Two men, one British and one Irish, were held for questioning when drug squad officers raided the yacht, but another man escaped.

Straw plea to Mothers' Union

THE Home Secretary Jack Straw will urge more than 2,000 members of the Mothers' Union this week to help the Government in support of the growing number of teenage mothers and single parent families in Britain.

His call to the 120-year-old campaigning organisation, which he will address on Wednesday, is part of the Government's drive to work with agencies committed to improving conditions of family life. His challenge, in what is expected to be a Year of Country Needs You style speech, is seen by the Mothers' Union as timely. Britain has the highest rate of teenage pregnancy in western Europe with nearly 9,000 under-16s a year becoming pregnant.

Helpline seeks help

CHILDLINE is to launch a national campaign to combat bullying after the problem was identified as the single biggest reason for children ringing for help. More than 30,000 of the 115,000 calls to the helpline in the year ending in April were concerned with bullying.

Bullying makes up 17 per cent of all calls to the charity, a rise of 3 per cent from the previous year. The helpline will today launch a 10-page booklet for parents called Bullying. What Can Parents Do?, giving information on how to tackle it.

The helpline will unveil a fundraising pin badge costing £1 to be sold in shops in an attempt to raise more than £500,000.

MI5 seeks Arabic speakers

MI5 is launching a recruiting drive to attract Arabic speakers, including British Muslims, to monitor the activities of groups with links to the Middle East. "The idea is to recruit people to MI5 with expertise to help the agency gather information about Middle Eastern groups," the Home Office said yesterday.

An MI5 advertisement, which first appeared last month, appeals for new recruits to "translate and transcribe overt and secret information, extracting the vital intelligence, interpreting the content, and rendering it into clear, succinct English." MI5 is seeking people who speak Farsi, Turkish, Punjabi and Urdu as well as Arabic.

Five tickets share £7.1m

FIVE ticket holders won £1,425,455 million each in Saturday's National Lottery draw. Another 19 tickets matched five numbers and the bonus ball to win £115,421. The winning numbers were 9, 10, 11, 27, 42 and 47, and the bonus number was 8.

The Guardian Travel Shop

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EU backs away from free market in Russia

Ian Traynor in Salzburg

THE European Union called for a review of International Monetary Fund policies on Russia yesterday and moved to distance itself from United States prescriptions for continuing free market reforms as the answer to Russia's political and economic crisis.

Criticising the invasion of Russia in the past five years by Western business consultants "with laptops and programmes that cannot be implemented", the Austrian foreign minister, Wolfgang Schüssel, who chaired the two-day meeting of foreign ministers in Salzburg, said senior EU officials would travel to Moscow this week with "a very simple message".

"We want a European model for a socially responsible market economy"

el for a socially responsible market economy. A Russia Declaration agreed after much haggling stressed the importance of "social cohesion and credible and transparent institutions".

"Against this background, the existing programmes of the international financial institutions should be reviewed." Senior officials from the Group of Seven leading industrialised countries, the World Bank and the European Commission are to meet in London on Saturday to ponder their next moves on the ruble meltdown and the political standoff in Moscow, amid a growing chorus of west European calls for a shift away from free market orthodoxy in Russia.

While the Italian foreign minister, Lamberto Dini, said a moratorium should be called on Russia's foreign

debt, the Swedish foreign minister, Lena Hjelm-Wallen, called on the IMF to ease its terms for further credits.

Rudolf Scharping, Germany's shadow foreign minister, who could be in office after the September 27 general elections, said the Russian emergency proved the "monetarist school" had suffered a "heavy defeat".

Germany's foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, said he, Britain's Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, and Mr Schüssel should go to Moscow. But the proposal was widely dismissed as an electioneering ploy. Instead, senior foreign ministry officials from Britain, Germany and Austria will visit Moscow, as has long been scheduled.

The EU stands ready to send a troika at ministerial level as soon as practicable to Moscow, the EU said.

There was no point in foreign ministers visiting Moscow until a new government and prime minister were identified, participants said.

The shift away from the IMF's orthodox monetarist prescriptions was summed up by the European Commission president, Jacques Santer, who said the EU was "pre-occupied by the social impact" of the Russian crisis.

Denouncing "hyena capitalism" in Russia and the "shameless attempts at enrichment" by the new breed of Russian businessmen, Mr Schüssel said market reforms successful in post-communist eastern Europe and in Latin America had failed in Russia, which needed a different development model — "perhaps more planning elements and state intervention".

Later, World Bank's President James Wolfensohn said the Government will not "turn its back" on Russia or on British companies trading there.

Mr Wilson, who is to visit St Petersburg this week for a long-planned trade fair, insisted that trade with Russia was important for British jobs. "Hardly one" of the British businessmen from more than 130 companies due to attend had pulled out because of the crisis, he said.

Polls set Malta on EU course

John Hooper in Malta

MALTA'S experiment in government by a New Labour-style party was cut short at the weekend when Alfred Sant, the Blairite leader of Malta's Labour Party (MLP), was swept from power less than two years after becoming prime minister.

The Nationalist Party victory puts the island back on the road to full membership of the European Union. Eddie Fenech Adami, the Nationalist leader, is committed to resubmitting the island's application, which was frozen by Dr Sant.

Mr Fenech Adami, said: "The first thing I am going to do is to inform the EU that the Maltese people want membership."

The final results of Saturday's snap general election are not expected until later today. But Dr Sant conceded to reporters last night that the Nationalist Party had won an absolute majority.

Unofficial estimates showed the right-of-centre nationalists were heading for what, by Maltese standards, will be a huge majority of five seats in the 63-seat parliament. Officials reported a turnout of 95 per cent.

The outcome represents an extraordinary triumph for Don Mintoff, the controversial 82-year-old former prime minister, who bowed out at the start of the campaign after 51 years in parliament.

Mr Mintoff forced Dr Sant to call an election two years into his five-year term when he broke with the MLP leadership over a scheme to redevelop part of the Grand Harbour. There were early indications that one of the seats lost by the MLP was in the multi-seat constituency which was Mr Mintoff's power base.

Mr Fenech Adami, a lawyer, was prime minister from 1987 to 1996. In its efforts to prepare the island for EU membership, his government introduced value added tax — a move seen as decisive in his defeat two years ago.



Serb policemen guard ethnic Albanian prisoners in the Kosovan village of Ponorac. US officials have complained to Belgrade about the policy of mass arrests. PHOTOGRAPH BY SRDJAN LUC

Kosovo crisis worsens as West rows over policy

Ian Traynor in Salzburg

A TRANSATLANTIC row about policy in the Balkans erupted yesterday between the European Union and the United States.

European governments are smarting at strong criticism from Washington that they are "fiddling while Kosovo burns" and they struggled yesterday to fashion a common and coherent policy towards President Slobodan Milosevic's regime in Belgrade.

Meeting in Salzburg, in Austria, EU foreign ministers warned of an impending humanitarian catastrophe affecting hundreds of thousands in Kosovo as winter approaches, and sought to tighten the screws on the Serbian regime.

But the 15 ministers disagreed on the detail of stronger sanctions, providing more grist to the mill of US contempt for their Balkan policy.

Yesterday the German foreign minister, Klaus Kinkel, accused the US envoy to the Balkans, Christopher Hill, of being "cynical and condescending" in pouring scorn on EU attempts to tackle the Kosovo crisis.

Mr Hill had said EU governments were absorbed in "discussions over a united Europe" but refused to lift a finger to stop the bloodletting in the south Serbian province, where the majority Albanian population is fighting paramilitary Serb police and the Yugoslav army.

Hubert Vedrine, the French foreign minister, advised Mr Hill to shut up, suggesting a fresh eruption of the transatlantic disputes that characterised Western policy through the three-year Bosnian war of 1992-95.

The EU ministers said they had reached a consensus on banning flights by a United Europe airline JAT, a decision taken months ago but never implemented, Greece, which had dug in its heels against the ban, gave up its veto, but Britain said it would not implement the ban because of legal agreements with Mr Milosevic's regime.

The meeting received reports from international agencies on the desperate situation of Albanian refugees in Kosovo, predicting a winter emergency and little chance of displaced people being able to return to their homes before winter sets in.

Senior European Commission officials said privately that EU policy on Kosovo was now focused on the aid and relief effort, as it was for most of the Bosnian war, with very mixed results.

Chairing the meeting, the Austrian foreign minister, Wolfgang Schüssel, said 120 villages had been destroyed under Mr Milosevic's scorched-earth strategy, making 300,000 Albanians homeless; 50,000 of them were living in the open.

He called for a stronger international presence in Kosovo, support for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and efforts to return the refugees to their homes.

Jacques Santer, the president of the commission, warned of a "humanitarian disaster".

John Shattuck, the US human rights troubleshooter visiting Kosovo to research reports of atrocities and human rights abuses, said he had contacted Mr Milosevic directly about reports of hundreds of Albanian men being rounded up at gunpoint by Serb forces and taken away.

"These reports are very disturbing," Mr Shattuck said. The UNHCR has reported that the terrified refugees will not return home until the framework for a settlement has been agreed.

That means a ceasefire between Belgrade and the separatist guerrillas, the withdrawal of Belgrade's security forces and the deployment of international monitors. The EU ministers made similar demands, but unveiled no means to back them up.

Solana points to pro-active role for Nato alliance

Martin Walker in Brussels

A NEW arrangement under which the European Union and the United States share responsibility through Nato for stabilising a region stretching to Russia, the Iranian border and North Africa, will be the core of the alliance's new strategic doctrine.

The doctrine is designed to formalise Nato's role after the cold war and will be agreed at next year's 50th anniversary summit. The first draft has been unveiled by the secretary-general, Javier Solana.

"Europe and North America must stick together. We cannot cope with globalisation if our security approach, or indeed our economic approach, is marked by fragmentation," Mr Solana said in Lisbon at the weekend.

Citing the Caucasus and Balkans as areas of potential conflict where Nato "cannot remain aloof", he said: "Our work in building security and stability throughout the wider Euro-atlantic region is not finished."

He added: "Our security policies must become increasingly pro-active. From preventive military deployments to economic assistance, there are many tools we have at our disposal."

He cited examples of preventive military exercises. But economic assistance is beyond Nato's powers, which suggests that closer co-operation with the EU is envisaged.

Party anger increases Clinton's isolation

Martin Kettle in Washington

THE White House was struggling to keep control of a mounting mood of political anger and electoral panic in Bill Clinton's Democratic Party yesterday.

A lengthening line of party leaders queued up to criticise the president's handling of the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Mr Clinton returned from his visit to Russia and Ireland with his advisers speculating that the report on the Lewinsky affair by the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, will now be much more sexually explicit and personally "blistering" as a result of the president's grand jury testimony last month.

While Mr Clinton plans a week of aggressive promotion of a "business as usual" agenda, visiting schools in Maryland, promoting equal opportunities in Florida, and announcing new consumer protection proposals, the White House's top strategists are waging a major political fight.

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News in brief

Kabila arrives for talks on ending war

CONGO's president, Laurent Kabila, arrived in Zimbabwe yesterday for talks aimed at ending civil war and foreign intervention in the former Zaire. The summit, to be hosted today by President Robert Mugabe, includes Mr Kabila's military allies — Zimbabwe, Angola and Namibia — and Rwanda, Uganda and the rebel leaders.

Mr Kabila declined to talk to the press on arrival, and was whisked away in a heavily guarded motorcade. He accuses Rwanda and Uganda of sending their armies to back Congolese Tutsis who launched a rebellion in the east of the country last month. Mr Mugabe said the summit would focus on a ceasefire and the withdrawal of foreign troops. His officials said it would not try to resolve the political and ethnic difficulties that underlie the rebellion. — Reuters, Victoria Falls.

Anwar says brother arrested

MALAYSIA'S sacked finance minister, Anwar Ibrahim, said yesterday that the authorities had arrested his adopted brother in what he claimed was a crackdown. He told more than 1,000 supporters outside his home in the capital Kuala Lumpur that his secretary was to be arrested soon. He added that he would begin a national tour on Wednesday to press for political reform.

The prime minister, Mahatir Mohamad, sacked Dr Anwar last Wednesday. Although he gave no reason, cabinet ministers said it was because Dr Anwar was being investigated for sexual misconduct, treason and other crimes. Speculation has mounted that he will be arrested. — Reuters, Kuala Lumpur.

Black-box search hampered

CANADIAN divers scoured the ocean floor off Nova Scotia yesterday for data recorders from Swissair Flight 111 which crashed into the Atlantic last week killing all 239 people on board. They were hampered by rough weather and the limited time divers could spend at 190ft below the surface.

The director of operations, Roger Gironard, said the US navy was sending a salvage ship to help in the search for debris and bodies. It was expected to arrive by Wednesday.

Divers looking for the flight data and cockpit voice recorders have narrowed the search to an area with a radius of 75 yards, after a submarine detected a signal from one of the black boxes on Friday. — Reuters, Peggy's Cove.

Prague bomb hurts tourists

TWO tourists suffered minor injuries when a bomb exploded yesterday in a street in Prague's old town, police said. A Spaniard and a Dutch woman were slightly injured when the bomb, planted in a rubbish bin, went off in Jilska Street. Several windows and a car were damaged. Police said it was not immediately clear who had planted the device. — AP, Prague.

Pope's horoscope warning

THE Pope warned Catholics yesterday not to put their faith in horoscopes and magic. He told pilgrims and tourists at his weekly address at his summer residence in Castelgandolfo to plan their lives by looking to God rather than the stars.

"Horoscopes and magic predictions don't do anything. What is needed instead is prayer, real prayer, which should be coupled with leading a life that conforms to God's law," he said. Horoscopes are carried daily by nearly all the country's television and radio news bulletins. — Reuters, Castelgandolfo.

"One of the charms of the Commonwealth Games is that they are full of sportsmen and women who are not serialising their books in the Sun."

Julie Welch comments

Sport, page 19



Jon Henley in Paris

THE original contains more than a million words of magisterial prose. Hailed as the greatest book of the century and the finest work of psychological, philosophical and sociological understanding ever published, it is probably the most revered novel in the French language.

So Stéphane Henet, a former naval painter and art director of an advertising agency, must have known he would provoke outrage when he decided to turn Marcel Proust's seven-volume masterpiece, *A la Recherche du Temps Perdu*, into a comic strip.

"Marcel is being assassinated!" the anguished author and *Le Figaro* critic Hervé de Saint-Hilaire cried after last week's publication of what Mr Henet hopes will be the first of 11 annual Proust cartoon books.

"This is a shocking enterprise," Mr Saint-Hilaire

went on. "Prodigious in its creative inanity... Let us avoid the word blasphemy, pass over the superficial treatment of one of the greatest texts in our literary canon... No, this is cruelty and catastrophe combined."

The *Nouvel Observateur* critic Laure Garcia said Mr Henet had ridden like a steamroller over the

novel's brilliant metaphor and dense imagery, reducing subtle evocations of time and memory to a "clumsy travesty, complete with speech bubbles and naïvely explicit drawings".

But Combray, the first volume of the series, is selling like hot madeleines, despite what one traditionalist described as the "all but sacrilegious" depiction (left) of the scene in which the taste of the famous lit-

tle cake dipped in lime-blossom tea triggers the narrator's childhood memories.

The critical response to Mr Henet's work might not have surprised Proust, who died in 1922 at the age of 61 having completed his masterpiece in the cork-lined room to which he had withdrawn almost completely 15 years earlier.

"The world would be a better place if everyone had read Marcel Proust"

A reader at one publishing house to which he submitted the first 712 pages reported: "After innumerable griefs at being drowned in unfathomable developments and irritating impatience at never being able to rise to the surface, one doesn't have a clue, not a single clue of what this is about."

Mr Henet, who spent two years researching the project, making countless drawings of the scenes and

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Migrants blocked from US cities risk death in desert

Phil Gannon in Mexico City

MEXICANS trying to cross illegally into the United States are dying in unprecedented numbers. Immigrant rights groups blame a policy designed to drive them from crossing points in the towns and cities on to remote desert routes, where many die of heatstroke.

On Thursday a man's body was found in the desert near Plaster City and a woman's was recovered from the All-American irrigation canal, which crosses the border, bringing the recorded deaths this year in the California border area alone to 107. The previous weekend three bodies were recovered from the desert west of the border town of Calexico, and another two from the canal.

Along the 2,000 miles of border about 170 have died this year, roughly one death every 36 hours. Last year's total was 130.

The rise has been inexorable since October 1994, when

the border patrol launched Operation Gatekeeper in San Diego. Similar operations were started in Arizona and Texas.

A patrol spokesman, Salvador Zamora, said the "number one goal" was to prevent migrants entering illegally through central San Diego and San Isidro — formerly the most popular crossings.

The number of border

"The object is not to reduce the number of migrants," said Victor Clark of the Binational Human Rights Centre in Tijuana. "Operations like Gatekeeper are aimed at satisfying ideological demands from conservative groups for border control."

He says the biggest impact of the current policy — apart from the sharp increase in deaths — has been to turn the

danger for those trying to cross. Daytime highs in Imperial Valley, California, have averaged 44C in the shade — and there is precious little shade.

Not all the deaths are due to heatstroke, however. A significant minority drown while trying to swim across irrigation canals, which can be 20ft deep and are often fast-flowing. Others have been killed in high-speed chases by border guards.

The authorities are trying to dissuade migrants from using desert routes, and rescue them when they get into trouble.

"It's a policy that's firm, but not cold," Mr Zamora said.

The Mexican foreign ministry is running a campaign to highlight the risks, putting warning signs near popular crossing points. But few migrants appear to be aware of it.

Activists say that as long as big inequalities of income persist, the flow of migrants will continue. "Signs won't stop desperate people," said Mr Clark.

Steel fences, sensors and stadium lights are now helping the patrols

guards has been hugely increased, and they now use military-style tactics. Steel fences, sensors and stadium lights are also used to deter the migrants.

There is no pretence that the overall flow of undocumented migrants has been affected. An estimated 300,000 still cross each year.

The difference is that they run a greater risk of dying, and have to pay guides — *polleros* up to \$1,000 (£625).

polleros' business into a thriving branch of organised crime.

"*Polleros* cartels like the one known as Los Peraltas in Tijuana have the capacity to take as many as 100 people across the border every day," he said. "If they're charging an average of \$1,000, imagine the money they're making and the power they have to corrupt the authorities."

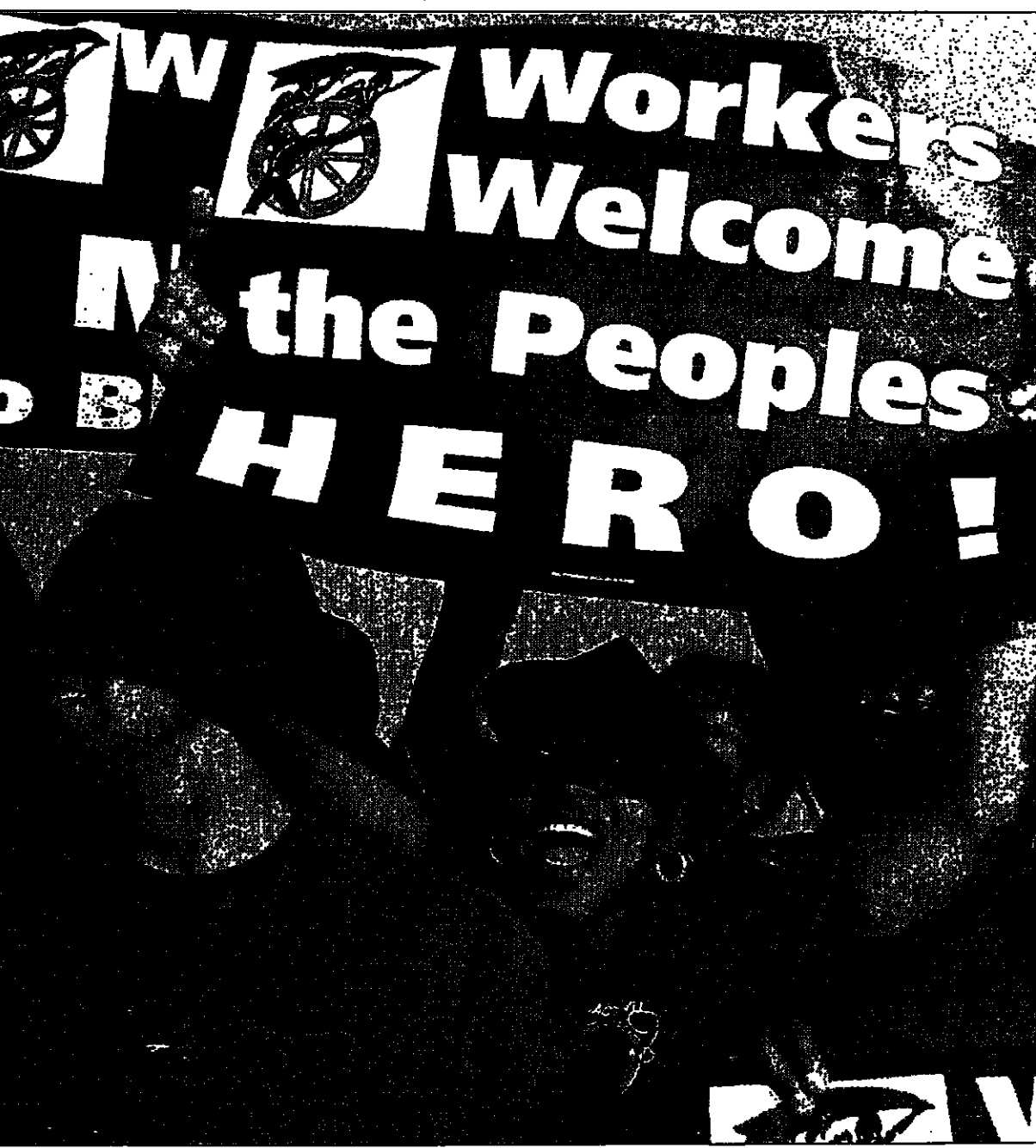
Record-breaking temperatures this year have added to



The border fence extends into the Pacific Ocean at Tijuana. Along the 2,000-mile border the death toll is on the rise as tougher policies force Mexicans to use remote desert routes to cross into the US



Fidel Castro takes Sowetans on a two-hour tour of the cosmo at the weekend as (right) he receives a rapturous greeting from supporters of the South African Communist Party. The Cuban leader laid a wreath at a memorial to Hector Peterson, reputedly the first child killed in the police suppression of the 1976 Soweto uprising



Sowetans warm to the wise words of the Cuban lion

David Beresford in Johannesburg sees Fidel Castro offer words of comfort at a memorial to the 1976 uprising

"CASTRO is a lion," sang the South African Communist Party choir, as Fidel Castro, Castro, Castro, with the enthusiasm of teenagers cheering a rock idol.

After laying a wreath and solemnly saluting at a roadside shrine that stands as a memorial to Hector Peterson — reputedly the first child to die under police guns in the 1976 uprising — Dr Castro made his way to the speakers' platform, surrounded by bodyguards.

Mathole Motshekga, the premier of Gauteng — the country's richest province — was there to greet him. Mr Motshekga has been under a cloud after allegations that he was an apartheid-era spy for South African military intelligence.

He introduced the Cuban leader with a ringing announcement that in Dr Castro, President Mandela and the South African deputy president, Thabo Mbeki, the world had "the greatest political prophets of our time".

Dr Castro began diffidently. "I've not come to make a speech. I've come to talk to you for a while," he said. "A speech would have

to take a long time..."

There followed two hours of one-sided conversation, a bravura performance in which the biting Spanish of the president and the majestic English of his female interpreter interwove with the ease of an operatic duo.

Dr Castro brooded on the destruction of the great library at Alexandria. He reflected on what would have happened to the Spanish conquistadors and their 12 horses if Christopher Columbus in his confused search for India had landed in a China full of horses instead.

"If Einstein had been born Hector Peterson, would the theory of relativity have ever been discovered?"

stead of Latin America.

"The 12 Spanish horses would have been nothing in a matter of seconds."

A tour of the cosmo ensued. Ruminating on the irony that Venus was named after the Goddess of love — "400 degrees of heat and actually at that temperature there is no way you can make love" — he touched briefly on the barrenness of

Mars before landing back on Earth with a thump, concluding that it was clear this was the only populated planet, so even those who suffered extremes of poverty needed to be persuaded of the environmentalist cause if mankind were to survive.

He swept on with a history of slavery, which led in turn to reminiscences of when a \$10 greenback was worth \$10 in gold.

"Today," he declared indignantly, "they are buying the richness of the world with paper."

Marvelling at the mastery of mathematics of those who built the pyramids, he asked: "If Einstein had been born Hector Peterson, would the theory of relativity have ever been discovered?"

After confiding that his sizeable retinue of bodyguards reflected the long history of attempts to kill him, Dr Castro delivered a succession of swipes at President Bill Clinton, including a reference to his use of four US helicopters to take him the 12 miles from Cape Town to Robben Island.

Agitated at the scope of US "imperialism" — "even in India and China they are drinking Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola [and eating McDonald's] hamburgers," he said in wonderment — he concluded "You have apartheid when you have a world of the rich and a world of the poor."

Iran rules out Taliban strike

David Sharrock Middle East Correspondent

THE threat of a war in the Middle East receded yesterday when Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, ruled out an invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan.

The ayatollah, commander-in-chief of Iran's 500,000-strong armed forces, said there would be "no confrontation with Taliban", the Tehran Times reported.

Tension has arisen between the two countries since 11 Iranian diplomats were allegedly killed when Taliban fighters overran the Afghan opposition stronghold Mazar-i-Sharif last month.

Tehran accuses the Taliban of seizing 47 Iranians when their forces captured the northern city on August 8, but the Taliban militia says it knows nothing about the 11 diplomats, and has freed five Iranian truck drivers.

A member of an Iranian delegation who travelled to Afghanistan last week said their mission was only to find and retrieve the remains of the diplomats.

The Tehran Times report was the first account of the ayatollah's remarks, which the newspaper said were made on Thursday.

The Iranian government is dominated by Shi'ite clerics. The Taliban, who control most of Afghanistan, follow a purist interpretation of Islam's dominant Sunni faith.

The prospect of an Iranian military strike against the Taliban appeared to rise on Saturday when the state-run Tehran radio said Iran had the right under international law to take all action necessary in connection with the diplomats' disappearance.

Iran sent 70,000 troops to its north-east region last week for manoeuvres close to the Afghan border. It said the bulk of them would remain in the area.

Hardline conservative publications in Iran support a strike, while most moderate dailies advocate self-restraint.

The Tehran Times dismissed claims that tension on the Afghan border could lead to open conflict.

"Despite the fact that Iran is quite ready in all respects to meet any eventuality, pundits here do not foresee any military clash with Taliban," it said.

Reports of the conduct of the Taliban's fighters in Mazar-i-Sharif continue to filter out.

One of the freed drivers told Iranian television: "They pointed guns at our chests and insisted we were carrying weapons. We showed them our documents and our goods but they still wouldn't believe us."

Another said: "The situation was wild. Everyone was running away and everyone was scared, and I myself saw the Taliban approaching the [Iranian] consulate."

Rights petition for China envoy

John Gittings in Beijing

MARY ROBINSON, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has arrived in Beijing with cautious expectations of a difficult visit, as Chinese dissidents urge her to denounce imprisonment without trial.

She said yesterday that she would sign a memorandum with China on future co-operation, but was keen to ensure it produced results.

She also hopes to find more information about China's adherence to the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Beijing has said it will sign the treaty but has not revealed when.

A petition by 100 Chinese human activists, issued through Hong Kong yesterday, asks Ms Robinson to urge China to end "re-education through labour". This allows police to detain anyone accused of anti-social behaviour for up to three years without trial.

It has been used against

many dissidents as well as hundreds of thousands of ordinary Chinese.

Ms Robinson's visit was preceded by lengthy negotiations, particularly over her intended visit to Tibet, where human rights groups fear the Chinese may exploit her presence.

There is concern about a possible visit to the main prison at Dapchi in Lhasa. During a visit by European Union ambassadors in May, a protest by inmates is believed to have led to several being killed — although the ambassadors noticed nothing.

A spokesperson for Amnesty International has urged Ms Robinson to find out what really happened in May.

She has not been helped by President Bill Clinton or the British government. Both have claimed credit for her invitation to Beijing — to justify a shift towards a softer policy on Chinese human rights.

On Friday Beijing released a Chinese television producer with the United States network CBS News who had been detained for two days.

East meets West in Forbidden City



RED lanterns were raised this weekend over Beijing's Forbidden City in a spectacular production of Puccini's opera Turandot (in which the slave girl Liu is seen tortured above), which has built a new cultural bridge between the West and China, writes John Gittings in Beijing.

Its director, the filmmaker Zhang Yimou, said: "Although it is a Western opera, I am Chinese and it will be a Chinese production."

Performed by the Florence Opera House and conducted by Zubin Mehta, the opera has caught the imagination of Beijingers. Mr Zhang, best known for Red Sorghum and Raise the Red Lantern, evokes national pride.

But the premiere on Saturday, beneath a full moon, was not for ordinary locals. Flacards advertising free Moët & Chandon hung from marble balustrades for foreigners and rich Chinese VIPs.

They had paid between \$240 and \$280 for their first-night tickets. Two cheaper performances have long been sold out in advance.

Outside in Tiananmen Square the usual crowd on bicycles or on foot watched the national flag being lowered in front of the

portrait of China's last emperor, Mao Zedong, flew kites and bought lollipops.

The two worlds mingled briefly as opera-goers in dinner jackets or imperial gowns walked past.

Inside, the tale of an earlier emperor's daughter, Turandot, was set on the steps of the 15th-century temple where sacrifices were made to the ancestors.

The production brilliantly exploited this vast space, with 80 yards of plinth and marble staircase. A black-hatted chorus represented the people of Beijing, and a crimson spotlight lit the pavilion in which the suitor who fails to answer the princess's riddles is executed.

More than 350 cast and staff from Florence are joined in Beijing by 600 Chinese participants.

The main roles are alternating between two or three soloists, giving more singers a chance to perform in the Imperial City. On the first night Sharon Sweet sang Turandot, with Kristjan Johansson as the hero Calaf and Barbara Hendricks as Liu.

The audience filtered out next to the Gate of Heavenly Peace. There are no longer any sedan chairs, but pedicabs were waiting to take them to their hotels.

Comment

e-mail

Patrice de Beer
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AFTER four years in the United Kingdom as Le Monde's correspondent, I am still bewildered by the way the British exaggerate when talking politics. I have come to realise that (like we French), the government is either too good, or too bad to be true.

Blairism is perhaps the first to have found the right approach to Thatcherism in adopting the good and discarding the bad. But after having initially applauded everything Tony Blair said, you tend to stress now only the dark side of things.

Yet New Labour's pragmatism deserves credit: Blair for his constitutional agenda and his pragmatism on Northern Ireland, as well as for his new vision of Europe; the Chancellor for his bold view on economic and social reforms.

Margaret Thatcher destroyed some of Britain's bad old habits, but she clung to outmoded traditions as if one could build an economy for the 21st century with 19th century structures. She confused Britain with the world and Little England with the UK.

Devolution and constitutional reforms will probably change Britain more than any reform since the Victorian era. At the same time, Europe has stopped being the battlefield where British politicians bleed each other — and their country — to death.

As a European, I can't help feeling some sympathy for Blair: he is probably the first true European leader in Britain. I don't mean pro-European, but European, i.e. someone who feels European; even if his vision of the Continent — of which Britain has, after all, always been a part — is different from ours and can be judged too slow or irritating.

He wants, as we quickly found out, to protect British interests, but he understands that Europe is not divided into two irreconcilable halves of "us" and "the Continent".

Although the patronising, moralistic and quasi-religious overtone of Blair's social policy can be at times unbearable, if not repulsive, its pragmatism is a lesson for many.

But the Thatcher legacy can't be reversed overnight. How many more months will Labour continue to fudge its promise of an universal and decent minimum wage?

It won't be easy to do away with the boom and bust, short-termist economy which has shown that it can create more jobs than any other European country but still has to prove that it can control unemployment in times of recession. The new economic policy will face its baptism of fire with the coming slump.

Britain is now becoming interesting to watch. It is becoming more European. And one day Britain might even understand that, just as it still has much to show us, it also has a lot to learn from us.

Parroted Reagan's or Clinton's America is not an end in itself.



Abolish the monarchy, to free us from this obsession with idolatry

Polly Toynbee



WHEN Demos, the think-tank closest to Tony Blair, started work on their radical pamphlet on the future of the monarchy, no doubt they judged it would be well-timed. In the aftermath of the Diana anniversary. For many, it may fall into a well of utter exhaustion with anything royal. Enough, enough!

We may be Diana'd out, the princes may have called for no more, but there the monarchy is, a bizarre outpost of our political system that pre-occupies our national life to the point of utter insanity. In the days when the monarchy was dull and distant, dimly glimpsed in their kilts in the mists of Balmoral, they seemed unimportant. They were a piece of furniture, like a mahogany sideboard so dearly familiar we had long since stopped noticing its existence. In the real world where serious things were done, there were better things to worry about than their defect of person. Bagehot's "dignified" part of the constitution would surely continue to fade gracefully into irrelevance.

Then came Diana, neither dull nor dignified. Her celebrity brought them back to centre stage, an epic drama unfolding as he called in the Italian press and Squidgy seemed to present a dysfunctional mirror of a dysfunctional society. They were, of course, nothing of the kind, nor is modern society especially dysfunctional, but that

became the modern myth: royalty again as a symbol of our times.

It was not their behaviour that turned me republican: they are as free as the rest of us to behave as they choose, with all its consequences. It was the effect on the nation that makes it important now to end this infantile charade. Such fascination with such irrelevance turns us again into subjects, obliged to contemplate daily in detail the doings of people who have nothing to do with us, still less our national self-image.

Royalty and its trappings drag us back to a fantasy vision of who and what the country is. The glorious pageantry mocks all attempts at "modernising" and "rebranding" Britain, filling us with false ideas of our place in the world as the sons and daughters of empire, Bluff King Hal and Good Queen Bess, all heritage, no real history. If all glory and honour is vested in the past, the future can only seem like a continuing downward trajectory. So perhaps it's not surprising that the authors of the Demos pamphlet on rebranding the country — a theme avidly taken up by Blair — have turned their thoughts to rebranding the monarchy.

There is not, they assert, any evidence that the people want to abolish the crown, but there is discontent with the way the monarchy is run. So they propose radical reforms which have already attracted outraged front-page headlines in the Mail. (The head of Demos, Geoff Mulgan, works inside Number 10's policy unit.) Most dramatic of their proposals is for an "affirmative referendum" before

each new monarch is crowned, requiring majority support. They also propose the crown should no longer appoint prime ministers and judges, dissolve parliament or give Royal Assent to new Bills. The royal household would become a civil service department and the monarch would no longer head the Church of England. A bicycling monarchy would use the NHS and state schools.

One of the authors, Tim Hames, is a Conservative political theorist. Times leader writer and author of right-wing pamphlets. No republican can he. They say reform is the only way to save the crown. However, as the Mail rightly spots, much of this is more likely to destroy it. If these ideas take root, then in future times historians may look back and make this down as one of the stations on the road to abolition.

FOR once you start to apply much reason — let alone democracy — to the crown, the thing falls apart in your hands. Charles will be next king because of his genes and for no other reason. If we are obsessed with the extra-marital doings of the royals, there is for them, good reason: breeding is their purpose in life. If we were to start voting, it would raise the dangerous question, why him? Why not someone else? Once the debate was begun in the run-up to a referendum, there might be no stopping it. Would republicans get equal time for pre-referendum broadcasts?

Until now there has been no senior politician, let alone a party, willing to discuss the issue, so there has been no

debate. We employ politicians to hammer out the main issues of the day, but increasingly they fail to offer us choice on pressing questions argued out in every bar and pub in the country, from the legalisation of cannabis to the abolition of the monarchy. So we should look with some doubt at current opinion poll findings: they might change if public debate began.

Demos's polling finds a demand for reform: a majority think the Queen's residual political powers should be removed. But an overwhelming majority want the monarchy to stay. An ICM poll recently found, however, that 52 per cent of the people thought the country would be no worse without it. That is a remarkable shift since 1994, when 70 per cent thought the country would do worse without it. So opinion is volatile.

Reform along the lines proposed would remove some pressing reasons for abolition. Reform would start an institutional revolution inside the darkest, least democratic corridors of power: if the crown no longer appointed judges, for instance, there would be an open debate on who should. But one overriding republican argument would remain. Abolition would free us from our national idolatrous obsession with these people. It may be the royal family's fault — they too decay it — but we are reduced to absurd primitivism in our national fascination with such trivia. It makes us the laughing stock of the world. It diminishes and infantilises us in our own eyes. Given the chance to vote on it, the people might well decide it was time to put away these childish things and grow up.

Breaking news

Peter Preston



YOU might suppose, the way this argument is going, that news was some foul-tasting medicine. Take one tablet at six, one at nine — and the big pink one at 10 before retiring (family doctors warned: beware over-prescription of 24-hour news). So somebody at ITV has a fresh box of pills and various regulatory nurses debate whether it's better or worse.

But television news is much more complicated than that — and the latter over News at Ten dangerously simplistic. Nobody is concentrating on the questions that matter most: Should a nation have a national news agenda? And can it be a nation without one? Questions to be pondered with a wall of the pipes in the background.

The central point about public service broadcasting — and the obligations it involves — does not really concern timing. The market (in advertising and audience ratings) can be left to see when we want to sup from this common agenda. The point is that it should be available, and properly resourced. Otherwise the whole concept of public service implodes: which is why the BBC is squarely stuck in this frame, too.

At the moment, Jill Dando and Michael Buerk and Trevor MacDonald speak to the nation. The news they read from London is the news, the news of Britain. The regions, broadly defined, get their fix later. There is a natural logic to this settlement. It says that we are one country and that here, in winnowed consensus, are the things that should most involve us. You may agree or disagree, item by item: but this is a national choice by the dominant news medium of the day.

Of course, everyone does it that way, don't they? The United States may be a vast and disparate country, but ABC and CBS and NBC wrap the flag of unity around their national bulletins. They speak to Atlanta and Anchorage from the same basic script. It would not occur to our European partners — Germany, France, Italy, the low countries — to go any other way. For a brief designated while every evening the citizens get their agenda.

Yet consider that settlement, even next year, in the context of Scottish devolution. In one sense, the sense of Labour's reformers unveiling their wheeze to keep Britain whole and ramming an Edinburgh assembly through the Commons, it doesn't sound very exciting. The Scots had their own legal and educational system already. Here are a few more things on top. BBC Scotland (long semi-devolved) already runs its own McTear radio show and Scottish ITV has its network opt-outs. Carry on fiddling around the edges.

BUT such gentle accretion, like so much else about devolution, was always a dream: the moment of awakening approaches fast. The Scots are on a roll. Labour is struggling to hold back that insurgency (and this weekend re-launching itself with a new name and sundry kilted trappings). There is a tartan revolution under way. And what's the first thing that happens in a modern revolution? Quite. The rival troops head for the television station.

Consider the skirl of the argument. Scotland has its own elected chief minister and representatives taking the decisions that matter (as Blair is wont to say) on health and housing and transport, the things ordinary people care about. How can broadcasting be blithely left aside? How can BBC Scotland just be some surgically enhanced regional division in future, ruled from Langham Place by the un-elected duo of Bland and Birt? It must have freedoms to match those of the assembly, its own director-general. It must reflect, as a public ser-

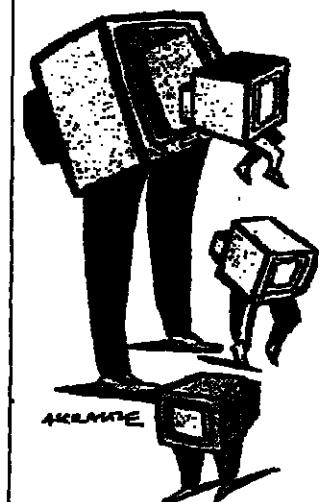
vice, the wishes and interests of the Scottish people.

You can hear the words on Alex Salmond's lips already: and you can feel the tug of the debate as, over time, they come to dominate Donald Dewar's mind too (if he makes it to first chief minister). There has to be huge broadcasting autonomy for Scotland. The BBC controller in Scotland has to be able to answer to the assembly members (and their committees) without reference to central bureaucracy at Broadcasting House. He cannot be a messenger boy. The producers and directors around him will not only see this, but act accordingly. Their long-term interests will lie in Scotland, not 500 miles further south. Salmond and Dewar will intrinsically be offering them the chance to be masters in their own manse. Who doubts which way they will go?

And the flagship, inevitably, is the first symbol of that battle. What price the national news at six, seven, nine or 10? Who, in Aberdeen, cares what David Blandkin is doing about primary school class sizes in England? Who cares about Frank Dobson's waiting list travails in London or Bristol? Who cares what Tony Blair told William Hague at Question Time?

Such things will not seem to matter in Scotland because, in brute practicality, they do not matter. They will make no difference to playgrounds or hospitals in Scotland. On a stretching list of policies across the agenda, the words of the chief minister can — and must — count for more than those of a distant, peripheral English prime minister. Therefore there can be no national news, nor Jill and Anna doing their familiar stuff. The basic bulletins will have to be blended and broadcast from north of the border.

Thus the definition of a



Scottish television must have the same freedoms granted to the assembly

nation — in its most obvious, defining way — will change utterly. The Scottish agenda that ripples in complementary form through the newspapers and the talk shows will become the established agenda. A seismic shift and hat-full of ironies.

Broadcasters, because they're journalists, see the licence payers of Scotland do not even now, finance the service they get from the BBC. It is English licences that keep them afloat on present provision. It is English money that will pay the Scottish teams to cover the Scottish assembly for Scotland. What it is far more difficult to see is how anyone makes sense of this first, bitter tangle.

We begin with autonomy and fair words. We move to an uneasy state where the staples of information are crucially different, without that common agenda. No prizes for guessing what comes next.

I was watching the Oval Test the other day and something stopped play. We did not see, and were not told, what was going on. Streakers — in a left-over double at Thatcher's gruelling — are neither shown nor referred to, even though 30,000 people are howling them on.

Television has the potty power to deem that things do not exist. Keep tuned for the moment when it deems that there is no United Kingdom.

Truth marches on

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

WHETHER you know it or not, we are at the very beginning of Salvation Army Awareness Week — seven days of gentle bombardment about the work of Britain's most admirable religious organisation. The blood and fire brigade will disapprove of my description. Modesty is one of the Army's historical handicaps. But — stretching the military metaphor — I shall stick to my guns and justify the salvo I have fired in salute. In one respect the Salvation Army is unique. It is officially and collectively committed to the disadvantaged and dispossessed. What other faith, church, communion or denomination requires its candidates for ordination to promise "to care for the poor, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, love the unlovable and befriend the friendless".

No doubt those virtuous attitudes are endorsed in the New Testament. And thousands of individual mullahs and ministers, rabbis and clerics in holy orders are devoted to the same ideals. But the Salvation Army was founded to meet the needs — both material and spiritual — of the ragged remnants that more respectable churches ignored. It has always believed in soup kitchens as well as sermons, and insisted that sin and poverty are inseparable companions. It still does. All over Britain tonight, homeless men and women will be sleeping under Salvation Army blankets. Thinking about it almost makes me cry. "Hallelujah! I am saved!" and sign the pledge of abstinence from alcohol. Almost, but not quite.

Awareness Week was planned to demonstrate that, despite its origins in the slums of Victorian England, the Salvation Army is a thoroughly up-to-date and increasingly classless organisation, and that it does far more than play

Christmas carols in shopping centres. Although generally admired, the Sally Ann is much misunderstood. Until I began to work on a biography of William Booth, all I knew about its modernisation was the replacement of straw bonnets with unbecoming felt hats and the increasing preference for electric guitars over brass trombones. But, although I am writing about the founder rather than the organisation he founded, I have begun to learn something about the changing inheritance.

In practical ways the Army has certainly begun to move with the more prosperous times. But the transition has not been easy. For the challenge has not so much changed as been modified. There are still homeless men to accommodate, missing girls to find, lonely pensioners to befriend and comfort. But their needs have to be met in a more complicated society than the one William Booth inhabited. When the Army — describing the work of its Family

Tracing Service — announces that "some families don't want to find each other", there is little doubt that it has moved forward into the age when sexual abuse and marital violence have become horrors to be excoriated not embarrassed to be ignored.

Thinking about the Salvation Army almost makes me pledge abstinence from alcohol — but not quite

A more superficial — though no less significant — example of Army modernisation is printed in the Awareness Week pamphlet's section on help for the elderly. The usual services — sheltered accommodation, home care visits, residential care and "good value, nutritious meals" — are listed. All still badly

needed. But one item in the catalogue would not have won Booth's approval. "Organised outings to hairdressers" were not his style. Writing about "fashion" in 1870, he urged his followers "to give up the love of the world, and its pride, and show and folly". It is, he insisted, "your duty to dress so plain as to show the world that you place no reliance on the things of fashion". The Army has, more or less grown out of that idea. But it still looks part of the past not the future.

Part of the problem is the uniform and the slightly absurd military ranks. But they are also the Army's greatest strength — the visible proclamation of fixed principles in a time of shifting values. They are essential to a process called bearing witness and, as any public relations consultant would confirm, that is about as unflashy an occupation as it is possible to promote. It may not be cool to believe or sophisticated to admit it in public, but overt convictions do

wonders for the morale of the troops. Whenever I see the Salvation Army on parade, I ask myself who is benefiting from the banging drums. The answer is the men and women who bang them. They know whose side they are on. In the case of the Salvation Army, it is the side of God and the poor.

The question now is whether or not it is possible to preserve the old values and survive in a new world. If any one can do it, the Salvation Army can. What they stand for is so right and true that it is bound to prevail. The danger for the good men and women who are now in charge is that they will be panicked by dwindling income into doing something which is wholly uncharacteristic. Were they to make that mistake, they would lose the authority which comes from moral constancy. And moral constancy is the Salvation Army's secret weapon. If only I could believe all that Christianity stuff, I would enlist tomorrow.

السلامة

Akira Kurosawa

Cutting edge of cinema

IN HIS honest, humane and wise autobiography, inspired by that of Jean Renoir, Akira Kurosawa, who has died aged 88, described a shattering experience in Tokyo when he was 13 years old: the Great Kanto earthquake of 1923. "Through it I learned not only of the extraordinary powers of nature, but extraordinary things that lie in human hearts."

The quake and the subsequent fire reduced two-thirds of the capital to ashes and took 140,000 lives. Kurosawa's family, living in a hill suburb of Tokyo, was lucky: though the house was damaged, the fires did not reach it. But there was no electricity, and when the neighbourhood's supply of candles was exhausted, the darkness was total and terrible. A rumour spread that Korean residents of the city were somehow responsible for the mayhem, and there was a massacre of Koreans in downtown Tokyo. The aliens were said to have poisoned the wells; strange chalk notations on the wall around a local well were ascribed to a Korean code. In fact the scribbles had been made by the young Kurosawa, who was "flabbergasted" by the irrationality of the adults.

When the holocaust abated, a strong-willed elder brother took Akira on a day-long tour of the blasted and lifeless city. "I saw corpses charred black, half-burned corpses, corpses in gutters, corpses floating in rivers, corpses piled up on bridges, corpses blocking off a whole street at an intersection." Involuntarily, he looked away, but his brother insisted that he look carefully. Back home that night he slept like a log. He asked his brother how it could happen. He told Akira: "If you shut your eyes to a frightening sight, you end up being frightened. If you look at everything straight on, there is nothing to be afraid of."

Though the adult Kurosawa was characteristically reticent about this, it is difficult not to see it reflected in his more than 30 feature films about past and present Japan, which abound in both baseness and nobility, savagery and sophistication, on an epic scale. Films such as *Rashomon*, *Idoru* (Living), *The Seven Samurai*, *Throne of Blood*, *The Hidden Fortress* and *Dersu Uzala*, that are among the most powerful movies ever made. Not only was their creator Japan's greatest film director, he was one of the greatest 20th-century artists working in any medium.

Kurosawa was born in Tokyo, the youngest of seven children. His mother was from an Osaka merchant community, his father from a samurai family which hailed from a village in the northern part of Honshu. Kurosawa admired his mother for her power of endurance and her "realism", but it was his father, a romantic, who really influenced him; and indeed women were never of central importance to Kurosawa, either in his life or in his films (unlike his fellow director Mizoguchi and Ozu).

His father was "a strict man of military background" who taught martial arts, helped to build Japan's first swimming pool and worked to make baseball popular. He encouraged his son's ability in kendo swordsmanship, and the young Kurosawa, despite being quite weak as a child, reached the first rank as a swordsman: the source of the

inside knowledge that would enable him to stage enormously exciting duels in films such as *The Hidden Fortress*, *Yojimbo* and *Rashomon*.

But the true samurai spirit bushido — inculcated by his father always mattered more to Kurosawa than the samurai's outward trappings. Donald Richie, Kurosawa's leading western interpreter, defined it thus: "compassionate steadfastness, complete moral honesty, inability to compromise, and action through belief." When Hollywood borrowed *The Seven Samurai* to make *The Magnificent Seven*, and Sergio Leone borrowed *Yojimbo* to make *A Fistful of Dollars* — thereby launching Clint Eastwood as the "Man With No Name" — Kurosawa was not impressed (though he was a keen admirer of John Ford). Japanese samurai had been replaced by Wild West gunmen who were basically gangsters. Samurai are the total opposite of gangsters, said a wry Kurosawa; but these Westerners had turned them into men nearly as worthless as their enemies, the bandits who were attacking the townspeople.

After leaving school, Kurosawa dabbled in many arts, read voraciously both Japanese and western literature, particularly the Russian classics — he later adapted Dostoevsky and Gorky — and made a number of films under the tutelage of his elder brother, who had established himself as a successful narrator for silent film. (After talks arrived, he committed suicide, which shook Kurosawa as much as the earthquake.) Kurosawa showed real promise as a painter, and began selling illustrations to magazines. He was also loosely associated with a revolutionary proletarian movement, though communism did not make much impression on him. It never crossed his mind to become a filmmaker until he happened to notice an advertisement by the young film studio P.C.L. (later Toho) asking for assistant directors. Despite having no university degree and little demonstrable achievement, Kurosawa was selected.

The years at Toho, from 1936 until he directed his first film *Sanshiro Sugata* in 1943, were gruelling for Kurosawa, but they gave him experience of almost every aspect of filmmaking. His chief teacher, the considerable director Kajiro Yamamoto, once told a magazine: "All I ever taught Kurosawa was how to drink." Kurosawa, by contrast, reckoned he had learned hugely from Yamamoto. "His attitude was that in order to train his assistant directors it was worth sacrificing his own pictures... How is it possible

to express one's gratitude to someone so selfless?" The beginning of the Pacific war and Kurosawa's "desperate" battle to become a director coincided. By August 1945, he had managed to complete four features, working in the teeth of military censorship. The most innocuous scene might be rejected as "British-American" while the use of march music by Sousa, the famous US band leader, would pass unnoticed. (Later Kurosawa defended his frequent use of western music on the grounds that Japanese audiences would not understand traditional Japanese music.)

SO INFURIATED did the censors make Kurosawa — a "short-tempered and obstinate man", by his own admission — that he made a pact with some friends towards the end of the war when all Japan was contemplating the Honourable Death of the Hundred Million: before taking their



Through a glass darkly... Kurosawa in 1980 on the set of *Kagemusha*, one of the later films that lacked the vitality of his early masterpieces

own lives, they would assassinate the censors.

As for the war itself, Kurosawa offered no resistance to Japanese militarism, which shamed him then and afterwards. On August 15, 1945, walking to the studio to hear Emperor Hirohito's surrender broadcast, he saw the preparations for mass suicide: shop-owners were staring at the bare blades of their unsheathed swords. On the way back, the very same people were bustling about with cheerful faces as if preparing for a festival.

"I don't know if this represents Japanese adaptability or Japanese imbecility," he wrote in 1981. "In either case, I have to recognise that both these facets exist in the Japanese personality. Both facets exist within my own personality as well." Perhaps this accounted for his unbalanced attitude towards the dropping of the atomic bomb in his 1991 film *Rhapsody in August*, for which he was rightly attacked by western critics.

Rashomon, made in 1950, brought Kurosawa, and indeed Japanese cinema as a whole, to the attention of a curious world. Shown at the Venice Film Festival in 1951, the film was a sensation and carried off the Grand Prix. In India, it helped to inspire a would-be director later deeply admired by Kurosawa, Satyajit Ray, who called *Rashomon* "the kind of film that immediately suggests a culmination, a fruition, rather than a beginning. You could not — as a film-making nation — have a *Rashomon* and nothing to show before it."

The story of a rape and a death in feudal Japan hundreds of years ago, told in four sections from the four participants' contradictory points of view, *Rashomon* is a timeless work of universal appeal. As Kurosawa described it, "Human beings are unable to be honest with themselves about themselves. They cannot talk about themselves without embellishing."

The 15 years after *Rashomon* were Kurosawa's golden period. His finest film of all (and his own favourite), *The Seven Samurai* (1954), seems to contain the whole of human experience in the relationships that develop between a village and the samurai hired by the villagers to defend themselves from pillage by ruthless robbers.

It is an action picture to end all action pictures, a hymn to movement but it is also profound philosophy. Plot and psychology are here in a perfect balance, never quite achieved by Kurosawa again. The closing scene distils all that has gone before: the courage of the samurai has won the battle, but the surviving samurai know that the meek villagers will win the peace. The richness and intensity of the film is that of tragedy by

Shakespeare, whose *Macbeth* and *King Lear* Kurosawa later adapted (as *Throne of Blood* and *Ran*).

After 1965, Kurosawa's career went into steep decline. His magnificent lead actor, Toshiro Mifune, left him because of his mammoth shooting schedules. The high cost of his film antagonised Japanese producers. And though his audiences in Japan were generally favourable, the Japanese press throughout his career accused him of purveying an exotic Japan to the West. This was both wounding and willfully blinkered, given the rapid and rather mindless westernisation of Japan after the war, which Kurosawa much disliked. But it is true that Kurosawa was a much more western artist than say, Mizoguchi and Ozu: "fifty per cent western, I think," Satyajit Ray once told me, "and so am I." (For some years Kurosawa used to send me a Christmas card illustrated afresh each year by himself; it showed a gaudy Father Christmas with just a hint of a samurai.)

Eventually, after a widely publicised falling out over a Hollywood mega-project in

1968 and a commercial flop with a Japanese-financed small-budget film, Kurosawa attempted suicide in 1971. His fortunes revived with Russian help (*Dersu Uzala*), French help (*Ran*), and the backing of younger Hollywood directors, Francis Ford Coppola and George Lucas (*Kagemusha*) and Steven Spielberg (*Dreams*), in which Martin Scorsese acted a small role. But, enchanting, gorgeous, cruel and grand as all these films variously are, with the exception of *Dersu* they lack Kurosawa's former vitality.

Nevertheless, we have the masterpieces, which will never be forgotten. They are how Kurosawa, an extremely private man, wanted to be remembered. "I don't really like talking about my film," he wrote in *Something Like an Autobiography*. "Every thing I want to say is in the film itself, for me to say anything more is, as the proverb goes, like 'drawing legs on a picture of a snake'."

Andrew Robinson
Akira Kurosawa, film director, born March 23, 1910; died September 6, 1998

W. L. Webb
The Rev Canon Leonard Albert Cragg, born March 29, 1928; died September 3, 1998

sign of a kind of spirituality of example with hard, patient praxis. His last months were harsh: major open-heart surgery was followed with cruel swiftness by a rapidly invasive cancer. But as his wife Jill said when at last he could no longer see Gurner, the great green meadow under Pender that their room looked out on, he managed his own and his family's pain and love like a textbook example from one of his own courses. A good end, a good man.

Leonard Cragg

The good father

TO DUBM but voluble newspapers the Church of England seems chiefly a source of jokes in the saucy postcard tradition, or a collection of politically naive busybodies. Most parishioners know a rather different institution, exemplified by priests like Canon Leonard Cragg, who has died aged 70.

Spirituality apart, the little salary and big tied cottage produce a social work agency with probably more than one skilled and blessedly jargon-free therapist and counsellor, a keeper of historical records, even a modest funder of last resort. Len Cragg provided all this and much more in his various Blackburn parishes, and at the vast mental hospital whose granite entrance was visibly lightened by his chaplaincy.

His quiet but impressive charismatic gifts were refined in Frank Lake's clinical theology group, of which he was secretary, and he became an inspired teacher of the counselling of the bereaved, and a pastoral counsellor to generations of ordinands not only in Lancashire but also in Cambridge and the Oxford diocese.

A short, quintessential Lancastrian, in his youth Len was just the right slight build as a successful cox at Trinity College, Dublin, reading modern literature before studying theology at Cuddesdon. Extramurally, he was a fair jazz drummer, devoted to Disleyland, a wicked hand with a snooker cue, and an ardent amateur Hispanist.

To the confused, apparently indifferent, but profoundly needy times in which he ministered, Len brought a rare fu-



Counsellor... Cragg

tion of a kind of spirituality of example with hard, patient praxis. His last months were harsh: major open-heart surgery was followed with cruel swiftness by a rapidly invasive cancer. But as his wife Jill said when at last he could no longer see Gurner, the great green meadow under Pender that their room looked out on, he managed his own and his family's pain and love like a textbook example from one of his own courses. A good end, a good man.

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Toshiro Mifune and Machiko Kyo in *Rashomon*

The true samurai spirit inculcated by his father always mattered more to Kurosawa than the samurai's outward trappings

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

A SHORT report headed "Suffering starts again, Page 27, August 28, included the following incorrect sentence: "Rolls-Royce, now owned by Volkswagen, moved its research and development centre from Newcastle to Derby — a significant loss because the area needs to retain skilled jobs." This confuses Rolls-Royce plc with Rolls-Royce Cars Ltd, which is owned by Volkswagen, following its sale by Vickers plc. Rolls-Royce plc is a global company in aerospace, defence and energy markets. It employs 2,500 people in the North-east, although it is true that the research and development centre for Rolls-Royce India trial businesses has been consolidated into the larger research facilities in Derby.

A PORTRAIT of Lord Kitchen, reproduced on Page 10, September 4, was flipped, thus placing his medals on the wrong breast.

A PHOTOGRAPH of Lady Thatcher, Page 9, September 4, showing her with her new portrait, was wrongly captioned. We identified the man in the picture as the artist, James Gillick. It was the artist's brother, Ben Gillick. He made the frame.

IN OUR report of the Swissair crash, Page 3, September 4, we referred to the Canadian navy ship, HMCS Preserver. That should have been HMCS (Her Majesty's Canadian Ship).

IN AN ARTICLE about Eric Griffiths headed "Cult of Eric, cleverest man in England..." Page 3, August 29, we inadvertently knighted Professor Christopher Rickes. Sorry that we now have to divest him.

IN WATCHDOG'S Week, Page 13, G2, September 3, we said, "A hi-fi on standby can cost almost 60p an hour." No it can't. One reader (among

many) writes, "At Southern Electric prices, 80 pence would pay for more than 10 kilowatt-hours of electricity, ie, enough to run three three-bar electric fires for an hour."

It is the policy of the Guardian to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Guardian's Editor by telephoning 0171 238 9585 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 119, Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 238 9897. E-mail: reader@guardian.co.uk

Birthdays

Prof Malcolm Bradbury, novelist, 66; Kevin Curran, cricketer, 39; J Paul Getty II, philanthropist, 66; Peter Gill, playwright, associate director, Royal National Theatre, 58; Margaret Hampshire, educationalist, 80; Dianne Hayter, former chief executive, European Parliamentary Labour Party, 49; Lord Jenkin of Roding, former Conservative minister, 75; Elia Kazan, author and film director, 88; Gordon Richards, racehorse trainer, 68; Sonny Rollins, jazz saxophonist, 69; Lord (Andrew) Stone, joint managing director, Marks & Spencer, 55; Liz Titherton, editor, Harpers Bazaar, 51.

Death Notices

KAY, Ella Laura, formerly Sullivan, nee Draxton, died peacefully on September 6, aged 92. Deeply loved by her son Michael and his wife, and by her grandson Jonathan. Buried at St George's U.A.C. Cemetery, Thursday September 10, 11.00am. Flowers by arrangement. Donations if desired to St George's Hospice c/o Maryknoll Fd, 31 Devenish Road, Southill, Cambs CB24 1AH.

NORRIS, Jean Catherine, on the 1st September 1998, died peacefully after a short illness. Cremated at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Crawley at 2pm Thursday 10th September. In lieu of flowers, donations to Action Aid would be appreciated. Inquiries to Francis Chappell & Son, tel 07295 321407.

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A Country Diary

NORWICH: When people want to see whales it is assumed you have to spend a lot of money and go somewhere exotic such as Baja California or Antarctica. However a group of Norwich whale-watchers has pioneered one of the most exciting opportunities in British wildlife circles. Whales can be seen from boats that leave two main English Channel ports. Ferries from Portsmouth and Plymouth heading respectively for the northern Spanish cities of Bilbao and San-

tander pass through deep oceanic waters in the southern Bay of Biscay. These areas are rich in whales and dolphins of at least 15 species, representing about a quarter of the world's cetaceans. Graeme Cresswell and Dylan Walker have now produced a short journal, *The 1997 Bay of Biscay Cetacean Report*, which documents last year's sightings from 12 surveys. This gives a necessarily rough picture of the variety, numbers and distribution of the whales (obtainable from

35 Melrose Road, Norwich NR4 7PN, £4.50 inclusive). But what is also admirably is to indicate the wonderful whalewatching opportunities from British ferries. Most if not all the trips have seen some of the biggest species such as fin, sei and sperm whales. Other specialties, which are difficult to see anywhere in the world, are Cuvier's beaked and northern bottlenose whales, and the striped dolphin. This year is proving to be just as good as 1997 and a group last month

saw almost 300 dolphins and 70 large whales. Another undoubted highlight was a pod of orcas circling and weighing up their hunting opportunities from a party of fin whales. Good whalewatching requires calm conditions — less than a force five wind — but the stability of the ferries means you can use a telescope mounted on a tripod. Binoculars are essential. So too is a sense of awe at some of the world's greatest living creatures.

MARK COCKER

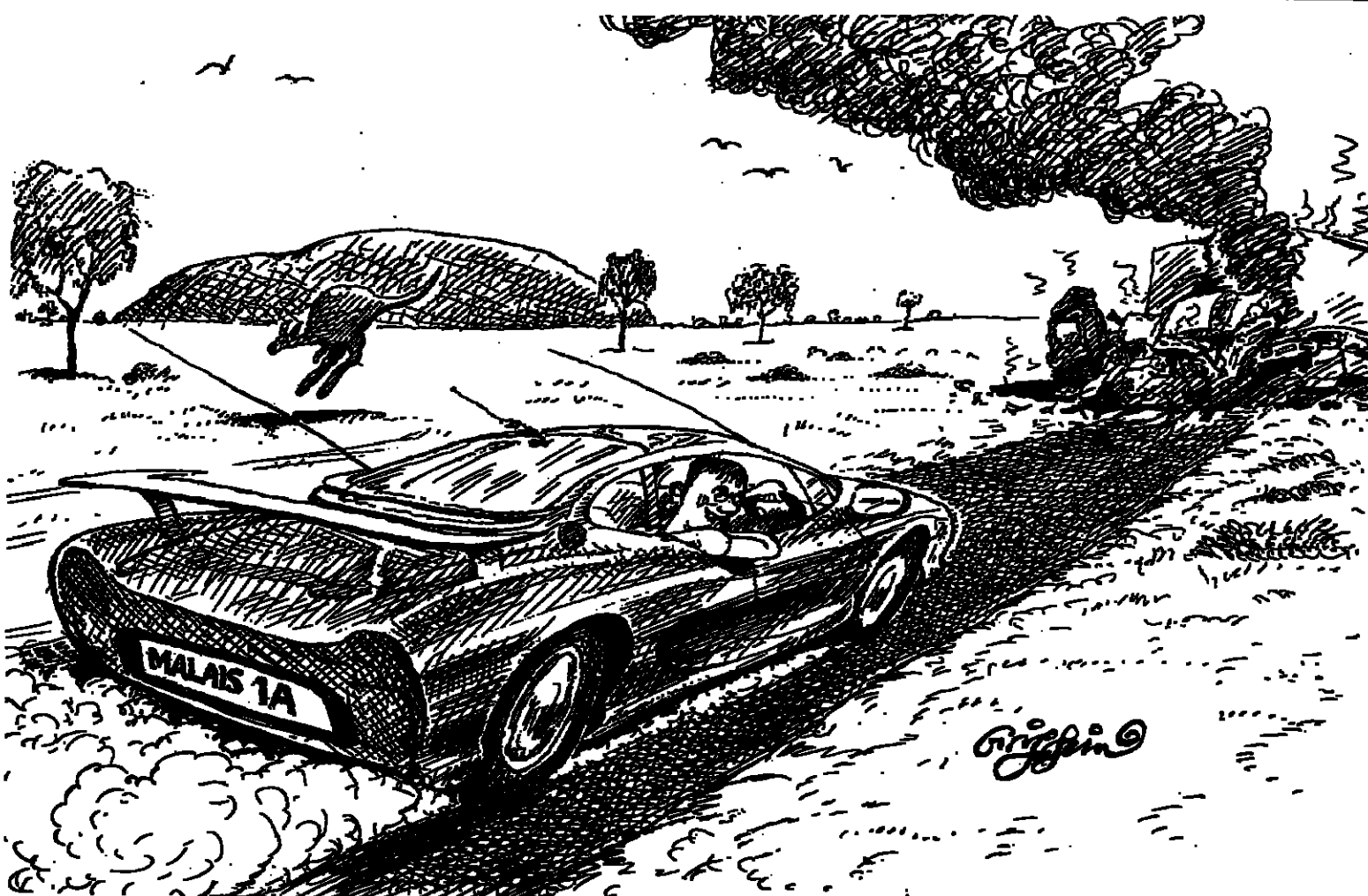
Nigel Slater travelled far and wide gathering exotic ingredients for his free recipe cards.

The Observer

Thai crab cakes and stir-fried prawns with lime and garlic are on the menu this Sunday. Exclusively in the Observer.

سكنا من الاجل

Leonard Cragg
The good father



Blow the gaff and tie me capital down, sport

Larry Elliott

IT WAS hard to know which was the greater shock — the Financial Times supporting capital controls or the New Statesman saying it was time to bring back Keynes. But last week, as the global crisis rumbled into Latin America and sent tremors through western stock markets, one thing was clear: change is in the air.

As the bible of business, it was only to be expected that the FT would devote a leader to Malaysia's decision to introduce wide-ranging capital controls. Rather less predictable was what the leader actually said.

"Capital controls have become dirty words in today's economic orthodoxy. But as the crisis in south-east Asia showed, unfettered movement of capital can have devastating effects," it argued.

"Capital controls allow the de-linking of domestic monetary policy from exchange rate movements. Under certain conditions, this could prove a way forward for the Asian crisis economies."

Three caveats then followed, but all the same this was pretty explosive stuff. Nor was the FT alone. Days earlier, Swiss daily *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, the paper read by the "gnomes" of Zurich, said the financial crisis had got so bad that the "poison cabinet" had to be opened and exchange controls implemented.

The voice of the Swiss banking system added that financial markets needed a deflationary stimulus, but in the current panic-stricken environment, any such move "would trigger just another confidence crisis in the financial markets. The key ques-

tion, now, is how to regenerate confidence". Well yes, absolutely. But haven't we been told for the past 20 years that markets are self-stabilising, and that any attempts to curtail capital liberalisation is both counter-productive and vain?

Apparently all that laissez-faire stuff has for the time being gone out of the window. So why the change of heart?

First, it is quite clear that the surrender of economic control from the state to the untrammelled market has been an unmitigated disaster.

Second, having been rumoured, that international capital is prepared to make a few concessions now, rather than face tougher controls later. When the Group of Seven industrial nations meet in London this week to discuss a rescue plan for Russia there will doubtless be much talk about how the system is basically sound. This is nonsense. It is like taking an inexperienced driver, putting him in a high performance car and giving him a huge incentive to get from A to B as quickly as possible.

For true believers there is nothing wrong with this; the markets know best, even when time horizons can be measured in minutes and the sums involved are staggering. But this can only be true under certain circumstances. To return to our boy racer, when time horizons can be measured in minutes and the sums involved are staggering, the system automatically corrects itself.

Keynesians have always argued that the real world is not like that. Roads have corners and become clogged up with vehicles and pedestrians. The reality for most of us is not peering out of the window to spot the odd kangaroo bounding across the outback but driving, nose to tail, around the M25.

Indonesia, which has had the full International Monetary Fund treatment over the past year, is suffering from an alarming increase in unemployment, a precipitous fall in school enrolment and a reversal of the anti-poverty programme of the past 30 years.

In Thailand, patients have been sent home halfway through treatment because the cost of their care has escalated or because the hospitals have run out of drugs.

All of us know that roads need strict rules and cars need good brakes. We have been persuaded, however, that all the global capital markets need is the very lightest touch on the tiller.

Without brakes, the system has careened into an all-too-predictable pile-up. Countries now have a choice: either to crawl along very slowly using high-interest rates to keep the speculators happy, or to re-install the car's brakes. Unsurprisingly, some of them are deciding to plump for the brakes.

For Malaysia and Russia — which have decided they have had enough of speculation — it is undoubtedly the right decision. The real need for Malaysia is for lower interest rates, which will allow the recapitalisation of the bombed-out banking system.

A few months ago, Malaysia and Russia would have been pilloried as extremists for daring to challenge the orthodoxy. But the sentiment has now subtly changed. Even by the debased political language of the late 20th century, the idea that slapping on exchange controls is "extremist" while policies which force cancer patients out of hospital is "tough love" simply will not wash.

The truth is that the orthodox approach to the crisis of the past year has not worked. The IMF is running out of money, running out of friends. It is to managing the world economy what Basil Fawlty was to running a hotel.

Initially, it was said that the Asian meltdown was a problem of transparency, and that all that was needed was to improve the flow of information to the market.

But as Joseph Stiglitz, chief economist of the World Bank, noted in a speech in Chicago earlier this year: "It is worth observing that some of the countries with the weakest financial sectors, the greatest lack of transparency, and the most corrupt political structures, were hardly touched by contagion from East Asia. These were countries with closed, or at least more closed, capital accounts."

This was not the end of Stiglitz's diatribe from the orthodoxy. He argued that restructuring done the IMF way — could lead to havoc, and in turn credit crunches, contributing to the insolvency of firms that otherwise would have survived.

Stiglitz said that there was a need to design "financial systems that buffer the economy against shocks rather than magnify the shocks... I think that the time is ripe for an open debate and discussion on the advantages and limitations of a variety of approaches, including some form of taxes, regulations, or

restraints on international capital flows". The Stiglitz view of the world is entirely sensible and pragmatic. His argument is that if governments and the IMF are to bail out countries after a crisis has occurred, it would be more sensible to prevent the crisis happening in the first place.

The problem is not a shortage of economists with ideas for re-regulating capital, but with a lack of political will and political courage at a time when there is a desperate need for governments to break with the economic orthodoxy of the past 25 years and to face up to the twin perils of deflation and global financial anarchy.

Tony Giddens, Tony Blair's favourite social scientist, has pronounced that the concept of "globalisation" is dead. A writer in the *New Statesman* described Keynes as New Labour's least-favourite economist.

When advanced texts of speeches by Mr Brown contain snippets of residual Keynesianism, they are excised from the delivered version. One Labour contact told me: "You've got to face it Robin, the Keynesian debate is lost."

So the brief eventually sent to the New Bank of England monetary policy committee, contained no vestige of the Tony Blair of the TV interview and to all intents and purposes the Government's entire system of macroeconomic policy is now based on the idea that if the monetary system is properly managed, the demand side of the real economy will look after itself.

This theory is not only dotty but dangerous. Even without the world economic crisis, it could prove the Government's undoing. For example, stuck with a one-dimensional policy target (the inflation rate) and a one-

dimensional instrument (the bank rate), the MPC are terrified of something everyone else wants, ie a sharp fall in the exchange rate.

Why then, does New Labour do it? One answer could be they believe it. The other is that they believe they ought to appear to believe it. The second explanation is supported by a defensive, if not almost shifty, tone in which Brown, Blair and others often support the policy. And, in the event, my contact who told me "The Keynesian debate is lost", has asked not to be named. Why not, I wonder?

So we have to explain why New Labour believes in supply-side economics, or why they should feel they must appear to do so, or a mixture of the two. If the answer is the former, they are in a very large company, including a high proportion of professional economists under the age of 40.

I believe that the "paradigm shift" in my profession was mainly caused by two things, the traumatic experiences of inflation and stagnation in the 1970s and late 1980s, and some important theoretical defects in Keynes's formulation of his theory.

Both represent quite complicated stories and for my

Debate

Anti-Keynesian drift dotty and dangerous

Robin Marris

LAST week I asserted that the ultimate aim of economic policy must be the maximisation of social welfare — a weighted average of everyone's income and wealth with disproportionate weights for the least advantaged.

In the run-up to the election, that seemed an excellent description of New Labour. We had in Gordon Brown a prospective Chancellor whose speeches seemed concerned with poverty and social deprivation, while recognising, as Old Labour often failed to do, that the welfare of the middle class and even of the successful rich also count.

Earlier, the then opposition spokesman for Treasury affairs, Tony Blair, had said on television that he would not object to the Bank of England becoming independent provided it was given a brief strongly emphasising employment and economic growth.

Although, of course, it is not easy to know how to make an economy grow, but he felt that the key lay in education.

The last remark puzzled me. Although, of course, it is always good to have more education, I also knew from my research for *How to Save the Underclass* (Macmillan, 1996) that in the recent period of our national history when social deprivation had increased, there had also been massive increases at every level of education and most especially a major decline in the proportion of people leaving school at the age of 16. It also seemed odd to speak about education when discussing the Bank of England.

One explanation could have been that our future PM was rather sensibly avoiding a difficult TV discussion of the well-springs of economic growth. With hindsight, however, it can be seen that the anti-Keynesian "supply side" bias that has increasingly taken over New Labour.

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might they feel that? One answer is fear of being

by the bankers. Another is a hidden pact with Middle England, who might prefer a programme for making workers more productive to a programme of sucking up employment by means of demand expansion, raising their relative wages in the process.

However, previous Labour governments were not brought down by bankers but by trade unions, who effectively sabotaged the post-war Keynesian consensus. That danger no longer exists. It was abolished by the Conservatives. As to the possible pact with Middle England, given that it is based on the fallacy that jobs can be created by supply-side measures alone, it is inherently liable to backfire.

There has to be a wholesale reconstruction of the mental framework of macroeconomic policy. No doubt under some other name, the welfare state must become the explicit fundamental target. Tony Atkinson, Warden of Nuffield College, Oxford, has already suggested a poverty target, but a social welfare target would be more embracing.

Amartya Sen, Master of Trinity College, Cambridge, has suggested a simple formula for social welfare which sets the positive effects of average prosperity against the negative effects of inequality.

Then New Labour's original plan for an Economic Council, with teeth, to be chaired inside the Treasury must be revived, or if not, some other effective plan must be adopted. The MPC could remain but would now be instructed to conduct monetary policy under the overriding target of social welfare.

Progress against the target would be measured and frequently reported by an independent body. The government policy, on the supply and demand side, would react accordingly.

Last week's *Guardian* article discussing similar ideas, suggested the required U-turn in policy. It was reassuring that it simply couldn't happen. If that is true, the political prospect is disturbing.

It reminds me of a time when, in company with the then less-known Nigel Lawson, I debated on TV with prime minister Harold Wilson the desirability of a controlled devaluation of sterling, in order to forestall the dangers of an uncontrolled one. To the audience he was negative, but by signs to me he more or less indicated he knew it would be a good idea though for political reasons "it wasn't going to happen".

The result is history. There was in due course an uncontrolled devaluation and Labour lost the general election of 1970. Something similar happened to John Major. Please let it not happen to New Labour. Of course, the issue today is unemployment, not the exchange rate as such. But we move to the proposition that New Labour feels a need to endorse supply-side, for better or for worse, as part of the programme for winning re-election. Why

Harold Wilson indicated privately that controlled devaluation would be a good idea. It didn't happen and Labour lost the 1970 election

version of them I can only refer readers to yet another book, my *Reconstructing Keynesian Economics* (Edward Elgar, 1991).

In the typically low-inflation conditions of the world today (Russia is not typical), inflation-panic is quite unwarranted. Nevertheless, as is well known, economic ideas are slow to change. But I do not find convincing the hypothesis that New Labour's macroeconomic posture is simply the result of intellectual inertia. If that were the case one would not expect it to have hardened as it has done over time.

So we move to the proposition that New Labour feels a need to endorse supply-side, for better or for worse, as part of the programme for winning re-election. Why

The reality is not peering out of the car window in the outback but driving nose to tail on the M25

This cannot possibly happen if lower rates lead to hot money leaking offshore.

Similarly with Russia. As Mark Horn and Richard Harrison of stockbroker T Hoare put it last week, Russia needs a domestic credit bank to help turn the country from a barter to a monetary economy. However, it can only do this with exchange controls.

Looking at what is happening to those countries having things by the book, it is not hard to see why there is a growing mood for change.

Indonesia, which has had the full International Monetary Fund treatment over the past year, is suffering from an alarming increase in unemployment, a precipitous fall in school enrolment and a reversal of the anti-poverty programme of the past 30 years.

In Thailand, patients have been sent home halfway through treatment because the cost of their care has escalated or because the hospitals have run out of drugs.

half of all land then in cultivation in England." Millions of peasants were driven off the land and into the slum factories of the new capitalist class. With the destruction of rural living went the destruction of independent craft industries. The supposedly neutral legislature did all it could to promote the triumph of these home-grown mafiosi to such an extent that the time is ripe for an open debate and discussion on the advantages and limitations of a variety of approaches, including some form of taxes, regulations, or

The Russian gangsters who go by the book

Worm's eye

Dan Atkinson

THE best free show in town, best comedy show that is, is the sight of the entire rogues' gallery of media apologists for the free market attempting to "explain" what has gone wrong in Russia.

Adding to the jollity is the eerie similarity with the lame excuses you got 20-odd years ago when challenging one of those bedevilled chaps selling militant outside the local Safeway. Just as our donkey-jacket-wearing friend would claim, somewhat im-

plausibly, that communism had not failed in Russia because "it has never been tried", so the rapid spokesmen for the financial interest worldwide hasten into print to allege that the last seven years have seen not Russian capitalism but something else.

That something else is usually described as "gangsterism". A new line is being drawn between the squeaky-clean variety of capitalism practised by us and the mafia-ridden pseudo-capitalism as practised in the former Soviet Union. Some even suggest that because some of the "gangsters" running privatised entities are ex-Party or ex-KGB, and because

cannot therefore really be said to have failed in Russia because "it has never been tried", so the rapid spokesmen for the financial interest worldwide hasten into print to allege that the last seven years have seen not Russian capitalism but something else.

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half of all land then in cultivation in England." Millions of peasants were driven off the land and into the slum factories of the new capitalist class. With the destruction of rural living went the destruction of independent craft industries. The supposedly neutral legislature did all it could to promote the triumph of these home-grown mafiosi to such an extent that the time is ripe for an open debate and discussion on the advantages and limitations of a variety of approaches, including some form of taxes, regulations, or

So, it seems a bit rich to tear into Russia's would-be robber barons. After all, they're only doing it by the book.

Rebels Against The Future: Kirkpatrick Sale, Quercus, 1996.

Tourist rates - bank sells

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Australia 2.756 | Germany 2.613 | Malaysia 6.378 | Singapore 2.36 |
| Austria 16.72 | Greece 486.74 | Malta 0.624 | South Africa 10.20 |
| Belgium 58.09 | Hong Kong 12.80 | Netherlands 3.165 | Spain 238.24 |
| Canada 2.50 | India 7.135 | New Zealand 3.21 | Sweden 12.90 |
| Cyprus 0.827 | Ireland 1.113 | Norway 12.61 | Switzerland 2.08 |
| Denmark 10.77 | Israel 6.439 | Portugal 285.81 | Turkey 448.060 |
| Finland 8.648 | Italy 2.792 | Saudi Arabia 8.16 | USA 1.827 |
| France 9.411 | | | |

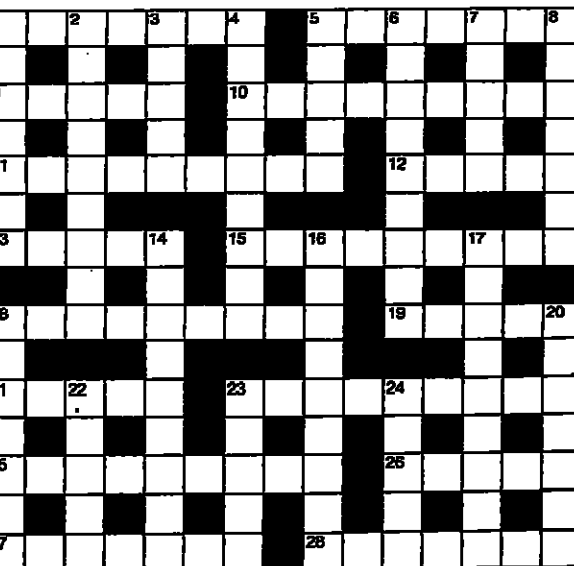
Supplied by NatWest (excluding rupee, arial and malay)

Indicators

| | |
|--|---|
| TODAY — GBR: Industrial production (Jul). | THURSDAY — GBR: Consumer prices (Aug). |
| USA: Labour Day holiday. | UK: CBI distributive trades survey (Aug). |
| TOMORROW — JP: Wholesale prices (Aug). | EUR: Current account (Q2). |
| UK: Industrial production (Jul). | FRIDAY — SP: CPI (Aug). |
| GBR: Labour market report (Aug). | EUR: European Central Bank meeting. |
| JP: Bank of Japan monetary policy committee meeting. | USA: Producer prices (Aug). |
| WEDNESDAY — GBR: GDP (Q2). | Source: HSBC Markets Limited. |

Guardian Crossword No 21,373

Set by Crispa

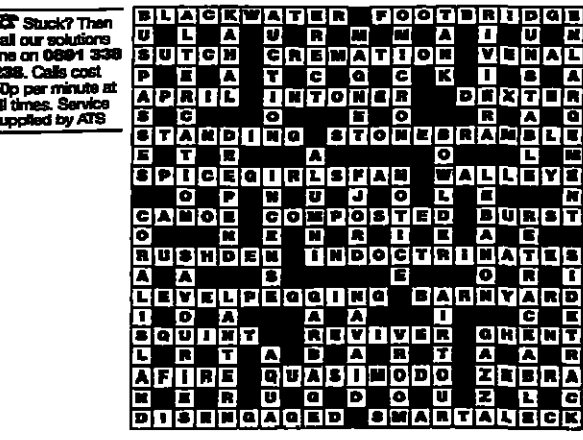


Across

- 1 A parking period which is set (7)
- 3 Individual who's paid for correcting the spelling of letters (7)
- 9 The fare's about a pound, and that's too much (5)
- 10 Sort of vegetable for a person to leave? (9)
- 11 Bloodhead edges by sound element (9)
- 12 Pole in space making lists (5)
- 13 Greek character taken in by the City's legendary tales (5)
- 15 Spiritless rendering of an item in a broadcast (9)
- 18 Temperate land mass (9)
- 19 In Britain at most a million people speak this language (5)
- 21 Coppers long for a sports field (5)

Down

- 1 Genial but very noisy sailing man dropped in the drink (7)
- 2 In favour of seeing some stipulation made (9)
- 3 Great water for commercial business being tax-free (5)
- 4 Rate increase causing delay (9)
- 5 Reason a nurse is given directions (5)
- 6 A health worker may well find a trip's the solution (9)
- 7 Not bound to be loquacious (5)



WINNERS OF BANK HOLIDAY PRIZE PUZZLE 21,366
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Sue Long and Colin Westman of Peckham, London; J N Busbridge of Willesley, Nr Broadway; Mary Smith of Lavenham, Suffolk; Alan Styles of Canterbury, Kent; Sheila Holmes of Lymington Spa, Wiltshire; Steve Perring of Shirley, South; West Midlands; Philip E Box of West Wiltshire; Brian Precious of Holmbridge, Huddersfield; R Smith of Shooters Hill, London; Patricia Swanton of Olney, West Yorkshire.
Please allow 28 days for delivery.

- 8 A painter should appear above suspicion in the struggle to succeed (3,4)
- 14 Give voice about the answer that's insulting (9)
- 16 The bar story with neat twist (9)
- 17 Carpet a number before church (9)
- 18 City outskirts drive where there's some greenery (7)
- 20 Many won't work on a ship without cover (7)
- 22 A flash — a little electric energy discharge (5)
- 23 Making a note as to unusual crowd (5)
- 24 Tired of everything trendy (3,2)

Solution tomorrow



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600 Vickers jobs at risk

Newcastle waits for another blow

Nicholas Bannister, Chief Business Correspondent

WORKERS in northern England face another hammer blow as engineering and defence group Vickers is threatening to close a plant if it is unable to secure new orders for its tank-manufacturing outlet in Newcastle upon Tyne.

A Vickers spokesman yesterday confirmed that the group would have to close either its Newcastle or Leeds tank plant if it is unable to secure significant orders for its Challenger 3 battle-tank "pretty soon".

The Leeds factory, which is similar in size to Newcastle's, is thought to be marginally more secure since it has a testing track in addition to its manufacturing facilities.

The threat to the Newcastle

plant, which employs about 600 people, emerged hard on the heels of the loss of 1,600 jobs in the region as a result of the closure of semiconductor plants owned by Germany's Siemens and Japan's Fujitsu electronics groups.

Vickers is chasing big tank orders from Greece and South Africa. However, it faces strong competition from Germany's Krauss Maffei group.

A spokesman said that the group had still to build 270 of the 300 Challengers for the British Army, and would be forced to consider making them at a single plant if new orders were not secured.

There is a chance that some, if not all, the jobs could be saved if the Government implemented proposals made

in the July strategic defence review to outsource tank storage and maintenance, and decide instead to award the contract to Vickers.

Ten days ago Vickers executives met defence minister Doug Henderson — in whose constituency the Newcastle plant is situated — together with union representatives to explain the situation.

City analysts believe that Vickers is struggling, despite having recently sold Rolls-Royce Motor Cars to Volkswagen for £470 million.

Industry sources suggest that Vickers could be forced to revive talks about a merger of its defence interests with GKN, which damaged the company's prospects by securing the multi-billion

pound contract to supply European armed forces with armoured vehicles known as battlefield taxis. GKN was part of a winning consortium including Krauss Maffei, and is known to favour the creation of a single European manufacturer in the sector.

Vickers has returned about half the proceeds of the Rolls-Royce Motor Cars sale to shareholders through a special dividend. Its chairman, Sir Colin Chandler, has said that he intends to use the funds left to boost its other operations — defence and marine propulsion systems — either through direct investment or through acquisition.

The group has topped up its war chest with the £117 mil-

lion it has received from the sale of its Cosworth engineering business to VW.

Last month, the German motor group revealed that it had reluctantly passed on the Rolls-Royce car marque to BMW, but that it was retaining the Bentley marque with a view to increasing its production substantially.

Vickers decided to sell the Rolls-Royce and Bentley business because it no longer felt able to provide the investment needed to develop new models and sustain a business which operated in a highly cyclical market.

It believed that Rolls would have greater opportunities and more satisfactory rates of return if it was owned by a large automotive group.

American Notebook

Greenspan balm for barmy markets



Mark Tran

THE Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, finally told the world what it wanted to hear when he signalled the readiness of the US central bank to cut interest rates if the global currency crisis deteriorates. Mr Greenspan's remarks came in a speech after Friday's close in another volatile day of trading in US markets, so first reaction will come today.

But Mrs Cohen is virtually alone in her optimistic assumptions. Most analysts expect company profits to decline for the third quarter, a development that could further weaken share prices.

Profits-growth estimates for the third quarter were revised — from 8.6 per cent on July 17, when the market peaked to 3.3 per cent — on September 1 by First Call, a research firm. "It's clear that the impact from Asia has been longer and deeper than most people thought," notes Charles Hill, director of research at First Call.

OF CRITICAL importance to the market is the health of the US banking sector. Several banks have already reported big losses from their exposure to Russia. Chase Manhattan took a \$200 million (£120 million) charge for July and August and Bankers Trust released estimates of trading losses from Russia of \$350 million. Accordingly, the banking sector has taken a pounding from investors.

And the full impact of the global contraction has yet to be felt by the banking sector. Many analysts have expressed concern that the Fed would focus too narrowly on the state of the US economy, where labour markets are tight, and neglect the turmoil beyond American shores. Mr Greenspan sought to allay those concerns by declaring: "It is just not credible that the United States can remain an oasis of prosperity unaffected by a world that is experiencing greatly increased stress."

THE Fed is not expected to lower rates at its next policy meeting on September 29, leaving short term rates at 5.5 per cent, where they have been since March 1997. But Mr Greenspan's words were highly significant at a time when the world is crying out for reassurance and leadership since the fall of economic dominoes started by Thailand's devaluation in the summer of 1997.

Mr Greenspan's remarks should provide some calm for the markets, especially his comment that "periods of euphoria or distress tend to feed on themselves".

There is not much euphoria on Wall Street these days. The Dow Jones Industrial Average suffered a 512-point drop on Monday, with more than 900 million shares changing hands.

Vodafone 'in talks with Airtouch'

This week

TWO of the world's largest mobile phone companies could this week announce a deal which would create a \$40 billion group straddling the Atlantic. Vodafone, the leading British operator, is reported to be in talks with Airtouch, the second-largest US mobile phone company.

No change in interest rates is expected at Wednesday's meeting of the Bank's monetary policy committee.

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hands. It came back 288 points the next day, but resumed its downward path for the rest of the week. The Dow ended the week down 400 points at 7940.25, after hitting a record of 8237.97 in July. Instead of making a run at 10,000, investors are now looking at the prospect of a Dow heading back to 7000.

A few bulls remain out there, notes Abby Cohen, the influential market guru from Goldman Sachs. The day after the Dow's 512-point drop, she recommended boosting equity holdings and reducing cash. She argued that the US economy, although not immune from weak global economic conditions, is well-cushioned by several factors such as the size and momentum of domestic demand and a diversified mix of trading partners.

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Airbus overtakes troubled Boeing

David Gow, Industrial Editor

AIRBUS, the European aircraft consortium, is rapidly stealing a march on its bigger and troubled US rival, Boeing, as it is set to receive more than \$3 billion (£1.8 billion) at this week's Farnborough international air show.

The biennial show, opened today by Tony Blair, is expected to see Airbus announce orders and options for 20 of its A340 aircraft from the United Arab Emirates and the International Lease Finance Group. The deal could net Rolls-Royce £1 billion in engine orders.

But the four-nation Airbus consortium, in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, could take up to virtually the end of next year to agree its transformation into a publicly-owned company.

Yves Michot, chief executive of French state-owned Aerospatiale, which has a 36 per cent stake, said yesterday the January 1, 1999, deadline for making Airbus a "single corporate entity" could be extended by six to nine months.

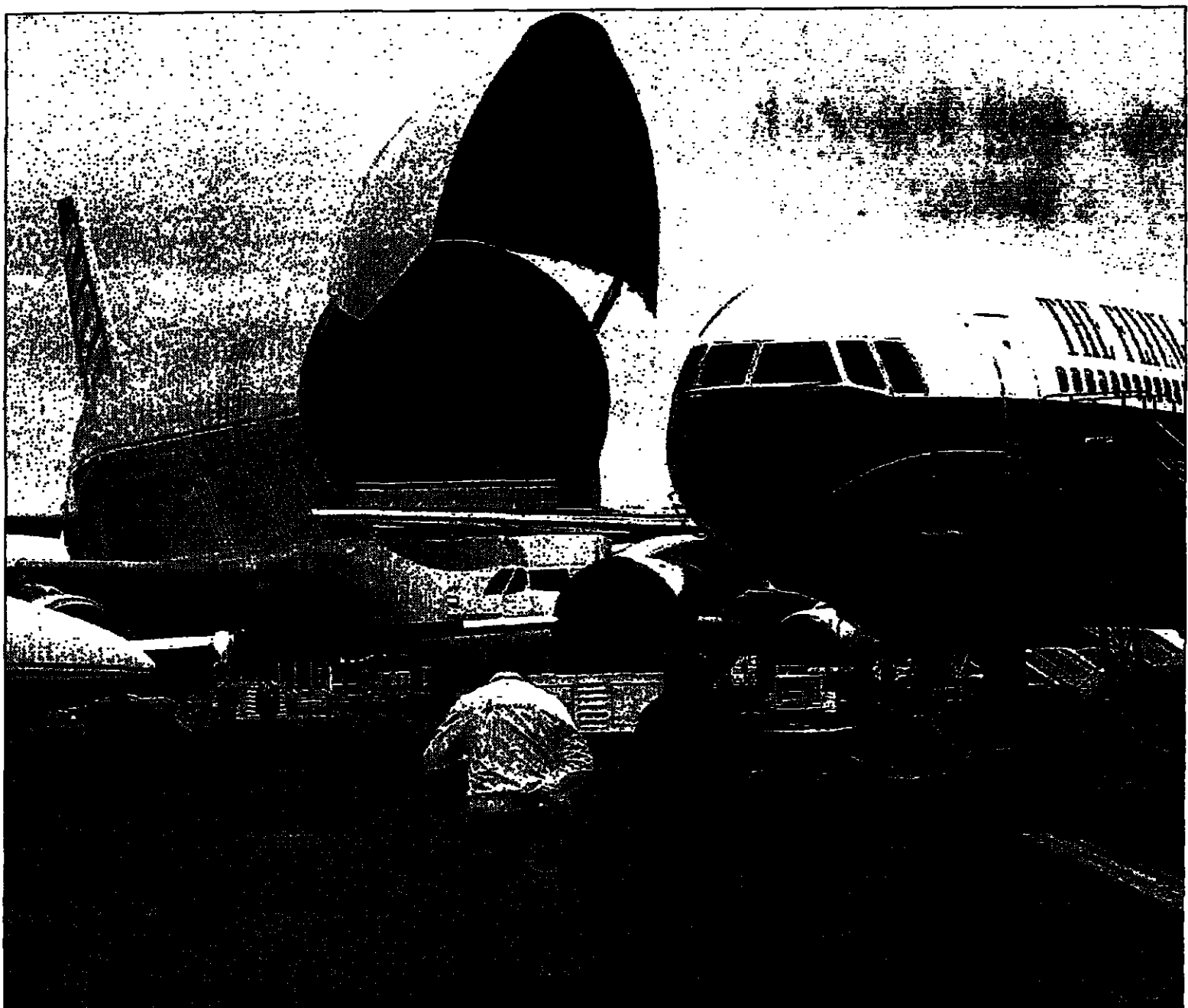
This week's orders will confirm that Airbus has overtaken Boeing as market leader in new orders this year and follows last month's decision by British Airways to make a historic switch from Boeing to order 188 short-haul Airbus jets.

BA knocked \$1 billion off the initial \$3 billion price, prompting renewed US criticism that Airbus relies heavily on state subsidies. But American analysts, such as Bill Price, vice-president of the aerospace consultants EDS-AT Kearney, expect Boeing to hit back this week with a series of civil, defence and space orders.

"Boeing is a much more balanced company and does not have to go at the civil market in the same dimension as Airbus," he said yesterday. Mr Michot, meanwhile, confirmed that the complex nature of assembling assets from four separate companies into one would delay Airbus's change to plc status. The other three partners are Germany's Daimler-Benz Aerospace (Dasa), with 36 per cent, and Spain's Casa with 4 per cent.

But he took sharp issue with BAE's new chief executive, John Weston, who said recently that Airbus's transformation could wait until a "big bang" merger of Europe's aerospace and defence companies into a single company, Euroco.

"We are working on the European company. It's clear the two files are related as Airbus represents half the [aerospace] activity in



Open wide... Airbus's new Super Transporter at Farnborough yesterday, and below showing its unusual snub-nosed design. PHOTOGRAPHS: DAVE CAULIN



Europe. But there is no connection, currently or foreseen, between the Airbus negotiations and the discussions on the European company," he said. Both BAE and Dasa have said French government plans partially to privatise Aerospatiale by merging its defence interests with those of Lagardere, reducing the

Golf's super-alloy gets off the green

A REVOLUTIONARY new alloy used in golf clubs to make reaching the green in two shots — or even one — much easier is to be unveiled as the future material for making components for aero-engines and airframes at this week's Farnborough international air show, writes David Gow.

But Mr Michot said: "I am not entertaining the idea of a merger between BAE and Dasa." He derided what he called an "Anglo-Saxon fantasy" about state control of his company's affairs.

put on show the first jet-engine compressor blades made from Vitreloy, a metallic glass alloy invented by scientists in California. James Stanley, a Howmet senior vice-president, said yesterday that the alloy is two to three times stronger than titanium or stainless steel, significantly harder than these and substantially more resistant to corrosion and has already transformed the golf world by enabling players to hit the ball further.

Howmet, with two plants

in Exeter, is casting the heads of irons and putters and the blades of drivers for Liquid Metal Golf, owned by Amorphous Technologies. Mr Stanley said it is already making 2,300 blades a day, with turnover set to increase this year to \$85 million (£21 million) from only \$100,000 in 1997. Japanese demand is said to be exceptionally high.

But the corporation, which makes components for aero-engines built by the world's three largest firms — General Electric, Pratt & Whitney and Rolls-Royce — says Vitreloy's properties make it suitable for use in engines for powerboats, as well as in aerospace. Mr Stanley said Vitreloy components could appear in aero-engines in about two years' time.

BNFL courts its critics

Paul Brown, Environment Correspondent

BRTISH Nuclear Fuels, the state-owned reprocessing and waste-management company, has invited its sternest critics to a secret meeting to discuss the company's business prospects and policy.

Senior officials from government departments will join environmental group leaders and 15 BNFL executives in confidential talks tomorrow at a luxury hotel in Chester.

BNFL asked the Environment Council, an independent charity, to manage the meeting so that where possible

"consensus" could be reached with critics on issues facing the company.

A spokesman said: "In the current climate of uncertainty facing the company we decided we should talk to our critics in a non-confrontational way to see if we can reach common ground on what the future might be."

The talks come as the company is pressing ministers and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to sanction moves to prolong the lives of their eight ageing Magnox reactors, now responsible for producing 8 per cent of the country's electricity.

Senior executives argued last week that this would enable the Government to meet

its own targets for reducing carbon dioxide emissions.

The recent decision at Sellafield, Portugal, of 15 European countries, including the UK, that nuclear discharges into the sea should be cut to near zero by 2020 has led critics to question whether reprocessing could continue at the Sellafield plant after then.

John Taylor, the company's chief executive, argued last week that BNFL could easily meet the Sellafield target.

The company has won a contract worth up to \$6.9 billion (£4.1 billion) to clean up US nuclear waste, but its plans to use reprocessed plutonium to market a new mixed oxide fuel have run into delays at home.

You're over the hill at 29

Age of anxiety for graduates, says NICHOLAS BANNISTER

YOU'RE 29, with a good degree and a happy love-life. You think everything is going well and are on top of the world. Think again. You could soon be a victim of ageism — over the hill in employment terms. Facing the dole or drifting in and out of unsatisfactory work.

The Employers Forum on Age and the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Service fears that hidden ageism is preventing mature graduates from getting jobs.

"This type of ageism can hit people as young as 29 and has

serious business and social implications," said the two bodies, announcing a joint investigation into the issue. They claimed that many employers had failed to alter their recruitment policies to reflect the sharp rise in older graduates over the past 10 years — more than one in seven graduates are now aged 26 or older.

Helen Garner, campaign director of the EFA, said: "We have been alarmed by the increase in mature graduates contacting us to say they are having problems with finding

employment. It is clear that some employers are rejecting a potentially rich pool of labour. But some individuals are being led to believe that they are 'over the hill' by the time they are 29 years old, and that is damaging for society as a whole."

The Government has launched initiatives to highlight the problem of ageism at work, but the two organisations said there was a natural assumption that those affected were older workers.

Lawrence Wilson of Agas said: "Even if there are no formal age limits, some employers have a traditional image of who is suitable for graduate entry schemes. This psyche is buried quite deep"

In the acclaimed 12-page sports section



Tough start
Rob Andrew's
champions
take a beating
20



Trophy time
The red rose
triumphant
at Lord's
24



Other pages

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Tennis, Rugby League,
Boxing 17
Commonwealth Games 18
Rugby Union 18
Cricket 24
Racing 22

The Guardian Sport

Monday September 7 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk

England still without a win in Sweden since 1937

David Lacey in Stockholm on the fall-out from the 2-1 setback to Sweden, their first away defeat in qualifying for five years

Everything goes haywire for Hoddle

Ince red card sees him join Beckham on the sidelines for Bulgaria game

GLENN HODDLE'S England team is beginning to dissolve before his eyes. Just how soluble his interest in retaining England's coach proves to be may well depend on the next match, at home to Bulgaria on October 10.

No sooner had England begun their attempt to qualify for the 2000 European Championship by losing 2-1 to Sweden on Saturday than Hoddle was being examined about the possibility of his returning to White Hart Lane as manager, Christian Gross having conveniently parted company with Tottenham a few hours earlier.

Hoddle trotted out the standard line about having two years to go on his present contract and that talks with the Football Association about an extension were pending, and that if every England manager whose team performed badly in September were to walk out the post would have changed hands a couple of dozen times by now.

Nevertheless, the present incumbent has had easily the worst weekend since he took over from Terry Venables two years ago. Apart from anything else Hoddle is the first England manager-coach to lose an opening qualifier.

On the morning of Saturday's game, after all the hubbub over Hoddle's World Cup diary and Tony Adams's criticism of him in a book published today, Sky television broadcast a recorded interview with Eileen Drewery, the faith healer and long-time confidante of the England coach. Drewery came over as a mixture of Florence Nightingale and Sarah Gamp but her faith is unshakeable and she is a strong personality, qualities normally demanded of a successful football manager.

If Drewery can help get Darren Anderson back on his feet after yet another knee injury, which brought on Robert Lee shortly before half-time, then all well and good.

What is more at issue is Hoddle's belief in a way of playing which contributed to the defeat by Romania in the World Cup and is already threatening England's qualification for Euro 2000.

Now there are doubts not merely about the wisdom of persisting with 3-5-2 but Hoddle's ability to raise a quorum of international quality in midfield for the Bulgaria match. Paul Ince, sent off on Saturday for two bookings, is suspended for that game. David Beckham will be completing a two-match ban after his red card against Argentina in the World Cup and at the moment David Batty is unfit.

Lee, Ray Parlour, Nicky Butt, and Steve McNamara will all come into the equation, while the perspective of a passing of Jamie Redknapp enhanced England's midfield in the Råsunda Stadium until the Swedes upped the pace and left him behind. But with a rebuilt Bulgarian side eager to prove itself at Wembley,

David Seaman was not wholly to blame for Sweden's goals but he was partly at fault with both, just as he had been in Rotterdam five years earlier

This is a bad time for England to be running short of established players in any area.

Not that there was ever a good time for a goalkeeper to have a bad match. David Seaman was not wholly to blame for Sweden's goals but he was partly at fault with both, just as he had been in Rotterdam five years earlier when Holland beat Graham Taylor's team 2-0 in the World Cup. This was England's first defeat in an away qualifier since then.

In front of Seaman, Hoddle's three-man defence pitched and tossed around a floundering Adams. Sol Campbell, eventually forced

| Match stats | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Possession | Sweden 56% England 44% |
| Attempts on target | Sweden 7 England 2 |
| Blocked attempts | Sweden 3 England 2 |
| Corners | Sweden 9 England 7 |
| Fouls | Sweden 18 England 16 |
| Offsides | Sweden 0 England 6 |
| Bookings | Sweden 1 England 3 |
| Sendings-off | Sweden 0 England 1 |

off with a hip injury, and Gareth Southgate, were able to cover his mistakes up to a point but yet again the ball was rarely played from the back to any constructive purpose.

In attack the reluctance of Michael Owen, ineffective after an early caution for a two-footed foul on Patrik Andersson, to drop deeper to link up the play à la Teddy Sheringham did not help the persevering Alan Shearer and both strikers lacked decent service.

On being dismissed by Collina, Ince then mouthed obscenities at the referee, accompanied by digital gestures, as he was ushered away by Shearer.

Hoddle's view of the incident was bland. "Ince tried to retrieve a ball given a little bit short for him," he said. "Paul had got goalside of Larsson, tried to kick the ball and got punished for it."

When Collina has studied the video evidence of Ince's reaction the player may be punished for more than that.

All three goals in the match punished poor goal-keeping. Magnus Hedman, having lined up the wall for Shearer's free-kick, promptly stood behind it and was beaten by a shot in off the far post.

After 30 minutes the strength of Stefan Schwarz's free-kick surprised Seaman, who could only push it out to Andreas Andersson. His mis-hit shot took a deflection off Adams and then spun into the net despite a second attempt by Seaman to keep it out. Two minutes later Pontus Kaspermark's centre ricocheted off Scholes and Johan Mjallby scored with a header which might have been prevented by Seaman being quicker off his line.

Mjallby and the 21-year-old Fredrik Ljungberg, whose speed and ability to find space near goal plagued England for most of the match, were the evening's outstanding players. And as Tommy Soderberg, the Swedish coach, pointed out, they were the only part-time professionals on the pitch, although Hoddle could have given him an argument about that.

"After an ideal start our passing went haywire," the England coach reflected. "A few people out there could have played better and we didn't do enough to turn the game around."

"Losing is not a disaster at this stage in the qualifiers but it's taken us back a step. Certainly the game against Bulgaria at Wembley is now one we've got to win."

Nobody could doubt that. Failing to beat Bulgaria would further harm England's chances of qualifying automatically for Euro 2000 by winning their group, and only the best-placed runner-up will be spared the chore of a two-leg play-off for the remaining eight places.

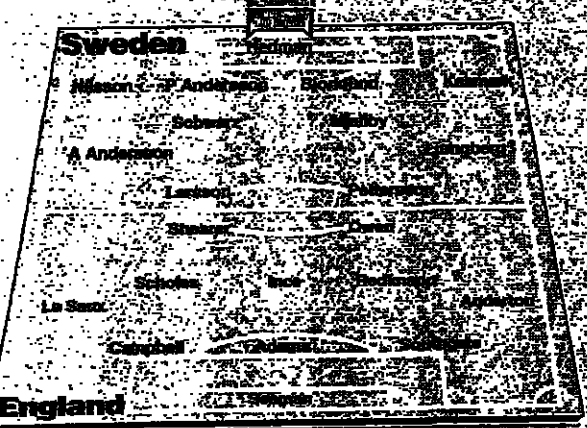
In the meantime the book-makers are continuing to shorten the odds against Hoddle still being England coach at the end of the season. It really is a funny old way to earn a living.

SUBSTITUTIONS: Sweden: Lunde for Kaspermark, 83min; D Anderson for A. Andersson, 90.
England: Lee for Anderson, 42; Merson for Campbell, 75; Sheringham for Scholes, 87.
First half: 0-0. Second half: 2-1.
Referee: P. Collina (Italy).



Thinking it through... Glenn Hoddle contemplates changes as the capitulation begins

KIERAN DOHERTY



Graham in frame for job at White Hart Lane

Martin Thorpe on the problems facing Alan Sugar if he replaces Christian Gross with a former manager of Spurs' arch-rivals

TOTTENHAM'S chairman Alan Sugar must decide today whether to risk the further wrath of the club's fans and appoint George Graham, formerly in charge of their arch-rivals Arsenal, as the next manager.

The Spurs director of football David Fleet, now in temporary charge of team affairs, is expected to recommend to Sugar that Graham be formally approached to replace Christian Gross, who was sacked on Saturday after only 10 months in charge.

It is understood that Leeds United are already bracing themselves for the loss of Graham, who has long sought a return to London and would relish the chance to bring success to Spurs and put one

over on Arsenal, the club that sacked him in 1995 over the bung scandal.

Sugar will have to weigh up not only the negative impact on already hostile supporters — they chanted for his resignation after the recent home defeat by Sheffield Wednesday — but whether his own strict moral code runs to employing a man suspended for a year for accepting a bribe.

Fleet will argue that Graham has the track record — six major trophies in nine years at Arsenal — to bring success to White Hart Lane.

But Spurs' frustrated supporters will take some convincing. After Ossie Ardiles' tactics proved too cavalier, Gerry Francis' approach too pragmatic and Gross was found out of his depth, the

fans are desperate for a manager capable of producing success as well as exciting football. They will not be happy with a former Gunner.

"If he was the double in the first season then people might take to him," said Bernie Kingsley, chairman of the Tottenham Independent Supporters' Association yesterday. "But the guy would have to work six times as hard and be much more successful than anybody else to prove himself. And with every slip it's always going to be, 'Well, he's an Arsenal man, so we should never have appointed him.'"

"Also the style of football he played at Arsenal doesn't obviously match up with the Spurs' traditions. If anything this appointment will add to the pressure on Sugar."

Others being mentioned as candidates to become Spurs' sixth manager in the seven years of Sugar's stewardship include Glenn Hoddle, Jürgen Klinsmann, Joe Kinnear, Kenny Dalglish, Raddy Antic and Graeme Souness.

The decision to sack Gross as head coach after only nine wins in 37 games was taken

after that defeat by Sheffield Wednesday. Although he kept Spurs in the Premiership last season, his reign has been beset by bust-ups with players over his tactics and strict training regime.

Yesterday Gross said: "I didn't go, I had to go. There are different reasons but I am not the person to say why. I

am disappointed but for me the months I have spent in England have been a success. "I think it is too short to judge me and decide my fate. It is not a failure for me to be judged after three games, especially after a big win at Everton. I am not angry, I am disappointed and I am now looking forward."

"In my managerial career I have been very successful up to now. This is the first time results have not gone well for me but I have to deal with this in a positive way and I will do so."

In a somewhat bizarre scene, Sugar sat alongside Gross as he faced the media at the Lodge training ground. The chairman was casually dressed in an open-neck blue shirt and jeans while the ever-smart Gross cut a dash in a light-coloured suit with shirt and tie.

Sugar revealed he had made up his mind on Saturday morning. "Christian's departure is for internal reasons," he said. "I think one has to say we were faced with an untenable situation created, with all due respect, by the media. We, the board, felt that Christian — no matter how professional or how good he is — had been destroyed by the media. It is as simple as that."

The Graham years

1944 Born in Bargefield, Scotland.
1966 Joins Arsenal from Chelsea for £50,000.
1974 Key member of League and FA Cup double side.
1972 Leaves Highbury for Manchester United after collecting first of 12 Scotland caps.
1977 Retires and works as part-time barman before taking coaching job at CPR.
1982 Joins Millwall as manager, guiding them to promotion three years later.

1986 Becomes the Arsenal manager in May.
1987 Wins Littlewoods Cup in his first season.
1988 Guides Arsenal to their first League title for 18 years thanks to Michael Thomas's injury-time goal at Anfield.
1991 Arsenal are champions again despite having two points deducted after an on-pitch brawl at Manchester United.
1993 Graham presides over an FA and Coca-Cola Cup double.
1994 Crowns brilliant Cup Winners' Cup campaign with 1-0 win over Parma. Accused in December of taking £285,000 "bung" in John Jensen transfer.

1995 Arsenal terminate contract on February 21 after a Premier League inquiry concludes he did not act in the best interests of the club.
1996 Graham's worldwide football ban ends June 30; becomes Leeds manager in September.
1996 Takes Leeds into Europe after they finish fifth in the Premiership.



Graham... six trophies in his nine years at Arsenal

Logger

A sideways glance at soccer



Their kit don't fit
No. 44 Ian Wright

The bottom-barling season is well into its stride, and Wrighty shows he's lost none of his sharpness or the eye for an opportunity since leaving Highbury, the undigested and revealing capital of British football.



The Dog Ate My Homework XI
Man Utd's international absentees

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Jim Leighton | v Italy, Dec 1988 — septic elbow |
| Gary Neville | v Mexico, March 1987 — aridic remarks |
| Paul Parker | v Poland, Nov 1981 — old knee injury |
| Dennis Irwin | v Liechtenstein, May 1997 — groin |
| Gary Pallister | v Poland, Nov 1981 — "scissors due to new car seat" |
| Gary Burt | v Sweden, Sep 1988 — wicket teeth |
| Barry McEneaney | v Colombia, May 1988 — Man Utd finally v Milan |
| David Beckham | v Chile, Feb 1988 — hamstring |
| Paul Ince | v Japan, June 1995 — "stress of court case" |
| Roy Keane | v Portugal, Nov 1995 — urgent hernia surgery |
| Ryan Giggs | v Georgia, Nov 1994 — ankle |

A life in pictures

Bobby Robson



1979 Youngish manager of Ipswich. Waves vigorously with both arms
1986 Mature manager of England. Gestures tentatively with one arm
1990 Old manager of PSV. Stretches painfully with upper body
1996 Ancient coach of Barcelona. Flaps artfully with assistant to hold him up

Ask the experts

HAS the FA Cup ever been lifted by a bearded captain? It certainly has, and within fairly recent memory too. Billy Bonds was the leader of the notoriously bearded West Ham team that won in both 1975 and 1980 (Paddon, Pike, Lampard, Cross etc). However, Bonds himself (right, during the 1975 fifth-round tie against Arsenal) went unshaven only on the first occasion. Lee Collins, London E16

What was the most serious disability suffered by a professional player?
While hardly professional, Luxembourg's Jeunesse Haut-charges sported a player with only one arm against Chelsea in the 1971-72 Cup Winners' Cup tie (lost 3-1-4 on agg). Jamie Hunt, Croydon, Surrey

Each week we will print answers to selected questions. This week: Which England one-cap wonder played for the national team for the longest number of minutes?
Which was the most garish combination of colours worn by any league team? Send answers and further questions to the address below, or post them to the Guardian's football bulletin board at: football.guardian.co.uk/football/ask

State of the nation

Sweden

Population 8.5 million. Unlikely champion of the 1994 IS, winners in 1988. Until then they hadn't won the title since 1928 — almost as implausible as Newcastle winning the Premiership. Pioneer Robert Prytz, who played for Rangers in the early Eighties, has claims, but Bristol City's goalkeeper Jan Möller appears to be the first of the modern influx. He followed the coach Bob Houghton from Malmö in 1980 and played 48 games. Möller, "a great disappointment" according to Bob Wilson, was in the Sweden team that beat England 1-0 in a friendly in September 1986. Import, export Houghton, who took Malmö to the European Cup final in 1978 (lost to Trevor Francis's divot to the shot-put circle in Munich), was not the only English coaching legend in Sweden. George Raynor took them to two World Cups (including 1986, when they reached the final) and an Olympic gold. Important import Roland Nilsson, the first Swede to play in an FA Cup final (for Shrewsbury in 1983), has been Sweden's most impressive offering — though for outweighed by: Strangers in a strange land Most of the team that fell into this category, Martin Dahlin, Klas Ingegnar and Stefan Schwarz were

A-Z of British football

D... is for "dogs on the pitch". Once a popular diversion for the TV cameras, all-weather stadiums have largely rendered them obsolete. Classic victim: Lincoln City, relegated to the Conference in 1987 when Torquay scored in time added on after a dog bit United's Jim Nicholson.

among those who failed to settle, but Thomas Broolin, below, surely takes the cake. Euro fighters Apart from Malmö and Gothenburg, twice UEFA Cup winners, Swedish clubs have regularly embarrassed English opposition. Don't mention Avdaberg (Chelsea, 1971), Trelleborg (Blackburn, 1993) or Helsingborg (Aston Villa, 1996).

Contribution to world football
Goalkeeper Thomas Ravelli, who holds the record for international appearances despite always giving the impression he was minutes from a mental breakdown. Gothenburg midfielder to line up with Raphael Madeo in an international. Beer XI Hakan Müld.

Refwatch

Pierluigi Collina
Home team Viareggio, on the Tuscan coast. Home town's other claims to fame: The spectacular Viareggio carnival, which takes place in February each year (Best float theme: 1988: Bald World Cup Referee).
Occupation: Financial adviser.
Trademark: gesture: Fixing terrified players with a hollow-eyed, other-worldly glare as he reproaches them from a distance of two inches. It's enough to give even Paul Ince nightmares.
Saturday's highlight: Knocking the nation's darling, Michael Owen.
Grandishes cards in the manner of... An unblinking Dr Frankenstein, pulling the lever.

The gaffer tapes
"It might surprise you but I was more worried when Croatia went down to nine men."
Mike McCarthy gets cozy with France 98's semi-finalist.
"If I could play the game again I would pick eight defenders."
Spain's Javier Clemente pays due respect to the fearsome firepower of Cyprus.
"I look at this job as the pinnacle of my career."
Lawrie McMenemy, shortly before his Northern Ireland side went down 3-0 to Turkey.

Off the park life



Peash Italian restaurant — not had for a short while since it was from Tyneside. But why was his attire judged to be inappropriate? Send your answer to the address below to win your choice of this month's new titles from the Football Book Club (0171-561 1600 for a catalogue). Please include a phone number.
Last week's answer Dennis Wise was on his way to Southwark Crown Court with his agent Eric Hall and solicitor Gary Jacobs for Wise's appeal against an assault conviction.
Winner Michael Sissons of London SE1

Clough welcomes contributions. Write to the Guardian, 119 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. You can e-mail us at clough@guardian.co.uk or fax us on 0171-713 4107

European Championship

Group Eight: Republic of Ireland 2 Croatia 0

McCarthy finds the answer

Michael Walker
sees the Republic get off to a flying start in Dublin

NO WONDER there are times in Ireland when Mick McCarthy is referred to as Mick McBarnesley. There is something essentially Yorkshire about McCarthy and it was evident again in Dublin on Saturday evening. For a man who had just received the most telling justification yet of his 24-year international managerial career, McCarthy's stance was still very front-foot-forward.

Earlier in the day his youthful Republic of Ireland side — average age 25 — may have snapped and cracked at Croatia until the third-best team in the world popped, a process that took all of 16 minutes. But McCarthy can also crackle, especially when he feels someone is having a pop at him. He clearly feels that is the case; he may be half-right.

The Irish press, while no way comparable to their British tabloid cousins, are less deferential towards McCarthy than they were to his predecessor Jack Charlton, with McCarthy's tactics and selection policy during the failed World Cup qualifying campaign scrutinised in a manner Charlton's never were.

Given the differing circumstances and levels of achievement this is understandable, although McCarthy, reasonably perhaps for a man in a precarious profession, appears to be able to look at it only from a personal perspective. Thus, even in the immediate aftermath of this thrilling return to prominence for Irish senior football, McCarthy bristled at a routine question about "highs and lows".

"It's you lot who give the roller-coaster ride," was his answer. "We have lots of highs and there have been lows but I've always said that when we had a full squad we would be a force to be reckoned with. And that was my full squad."

Later, when asked if he felt the players had proved a point at this level and Robbie Keane hugely impressive, the overall picture is becoming clear.

Qualification for the Euro 2000 finals from a tricky group would be a major accomplishment and three of the hardest points are pocketed already. Another in Yugoslavia next month followed by three at home to Malta four days later would leave the Irish with a real sense of anticipation.



Ready moments... Roy Keane celebrates his goal with Phil Babb and Robbie Keane

PHOTOGRAPH BY NEAL SIMPSON

Some problems remain — lack of cover up front and Phil Babb's worrying edginess being the most notable — but with Roy Keane back, Mark Kinsella instantly comfortable at this level and Robbie Keane hugely impressive, the overall picture is becoming clear.

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McCarthy would deserve huge credit, although so too would the supreme Croatia. They were third best here all right — behind the Irish and the atmosphere. The suspicion was quickly confirmed that, missing the twin totems of Slaven Bilic and Davor Suker, the rest would go absent without leave if the Irish started fast and physically.

There had already been evidence of Croat timidity when Denis Irwin was tripped by Krunoslav Juric for a fourth-minute penalty, one Irwin coolly steered in, and Zvonimir Boban was to be seen expressing limp dissatisfaction just prior to Roy Keane head-

ing the crucial second goal 12 minutes later. Thereafter Keane was the most mature Irish presence in the ground. Yes, true.

The two-goal cushion meant that the early injury to Keith O'Neill was less significant than it otherwise might have been. Tony Casciaro came on for O'Neill but McCarthy's other substitutions were of more relevance as to where the game had started to go. Jeff Kenna, a defender, replaced the sprightly Damien Duff at half-time and after the hour Lee Carsley, a defensive midfielder, came on for Robbie Keane.

The 18-year-old had squandered his moment of potential glory five minutes earlier but, none the less, some of his footwork showed that he is not the subject of hype alone.

However, his exit was a sign of Croatia's territorial dominance — though even so, Shay Given had to make only two saves — and the Irish did not fully relax until Juric and Mario Stanic were sent off later on for three fouls in quick succession on Steve Staunton.

Two-on-one against nine men, even McCarthy could have relaxed. After all, he was the only one of the five "home" managers watching his team win.

Without any hint of an end product.

Wales were to be undone by a mixture of reckless defending and the sheer brilliance of the Italian forwards.

The opening goal was a joke, the sad punchline being provided by Chris Coleman, who performed so wretchedly it was difficult to believe he was not using the occasion to perversely remind us all that he has now found his true level at Fulham.

When Christian Panucci's cross from the right landed at his feet, Coleman had two logical options — either allow goalkeeper Paul Jones to collect, or belt the ball forwards, towards Blake, of course.

He chose neither, preferring instead to try and roll the ball towards Darren Bernard. The pass was woefully under-hit allowing Diego Fuser to intercept and score.

Christian Vieri's marvellous goal 13 minutes from time, after glorious approach play from Eusebio Di Francesco. The substitute Roberto Baggio ended all the arguments in memorable style.



Gifted goal... Italy's Diego Fuser scores. JULIAN HAMILTON

Group One: Wales 0, Italy 2

Misfortune favours the brave

Ian Ross watches a familiar story unfold as the dragon-hearts lose their way again

NOW here is a familiar story of daring-do and patriotic heroism, of brave boys and cruel misfortune. The split is annoyingly familiar so brace yourselves: Tiny Wales are pitted against a footballing giant and beat form well enough to preserve pride and win plaudits, but not well enough to win.

Afterwards the talk is of a campaign possibly over before it had begun and of what may happen in the months ahead and not what might have been in the minutes just past.

Wales currently stand at 103 in FIFA's world rankings, so to presume they would defeat an Italian side under new stewardship was to be believe in miracles.

As the Welsh coach Bobby Gould will tell you, while football often yields surprises, it is notoriously mean when it comes to miracles.

Anyway, later in the day, Gould — after pressure from some of his senior players — had a change of heart and allowed Savage to return to the fold as a substitute.

"He would have started the game had he not stepped out of line," admitted Gould, seemingly giving the speech he had prepared for any post-victory press conference.

Despite playing exceedingly well, Wales never looked like winning, only hitting at an upset early on when the adrenalin rush was at its most pronounced and before the less thoughtful members among their ranks forgot rule one, which stated, clearly, that the ball should be presented to Ryan Giggs at every opportunity.

Presumably, because he lacks the quality support he is afforded at club level, Giggs often disappoints on the international stage but on Saturday he shouldered the burden of responsibility gloriously.

And, but for the first of what was to become a procession of curious decisions by the Norwegian referee Terje

Hauge, Giggs would have pushed Wales ahead after seven minutes. The Italian goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi clearly handled the ball outside the area when preventing Giggs a decisive touch to a through ball.

Thereafter, the Welsh strategy embraced nothing grander than long balls for Nathan Blake to chase, something he did willingly but

without any hint of an end product.

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Group Three: Turkey 3 Northern Ireland 0

Turkish delightful as McMenemy's men flop

Malcolm Brodie in Istanbul

NORTHERN Ireland's inadequacies were cruelly exposed by Turkey in their opening European Championship qualifying game on Saturday.

It was an embarrassing performance and only the Manchester United midfielder Philip Mulryne emerged with his reputation unscathed.

Wales could not cope with the skill and pace of the Turks and might have lost by a much greater margin. Fortunately, the Turkish finishing did not measure up to their outfield play.

Northern Ireland had a disastrous World Cup campaign, winning only one of their 10 matches. Now it seems the abysmal saga could continue in the European series, although maximum points from two successive home matches against Finland and Moldova may help alleviate the situation.

The manager Lawrie McMenemy, appointed in February, must already realise the magnitude of the task he faces with such a limited supply of quality players. In contrast to his halcyon days as the England assistant manager to Graham Taylor, only three members of his squad are with

Premiership clubs. The others are regularly on the bench or languishing in the reserves.

"I am extremely disappointed," said the Irish FA President Jim Boyce. "Too many of our players did not measure up to international standard. To maintain an interest in Europe we must win those next two games, otherwise it is a lost cause. Indeed, we were fortunate not to have suffered a heavier defeat."

Northern Ireland created only one chance throughout a one-sided 90 minutes, a header from Iain Dowie flashing past the post. Otherwise it was a story of total Turkish domination.

The Newcastle United winger Keith Gillespie made only a minimal contribution, but at least there was no reaction from the ankle injury that had kept him out since April.

"My only problem was losing my watch and bracelet," he said. "I left them in the pocket of my tracksuit and someone put a hand through the dressing-room window during the game and snatched them."

The home side broke the deadlock after 18 minutes when Gillespie lost possession. The ball broke to the full-back Abdullah Ercan whose 70 yard pass found Tugay Keremoglu. Stephen Morrow failed to get in a tackle, was beaten for

pace, and the Turkish striker calmly lobbed the ball into the net over the head of advancing goalkeeper Alan Fettes.

The Turks' second came in the 47th minute from a Tayfur Havatcu penalty awarded after a Colin Hill foul just inside the box. Oktay Derelioğlu got the third in the 88th minute after rounding the panderous Hill.

Earlier the Northern Ireland substitute George O'Boyle had been struck on the face with a coin and Gillespie on the back of the neck by a plastic bottle when the squad came out to make their pitch inspection. A report has been sent to the UEFA by the commissioner Alex Pomet.

European Championship

Thinking the unthinkable on a crumbling colossus

Roy Collins says England's coach may tear up his master plan and axe Tony Adams

TONY ADAMS may have humiliated Glenn Hoddle with some of his observations in his ghost-written book. But he was never more embarrassing to England's coach than as the author of the team's latest worrying defeat.

Hoddle even left the merest suggestion hanging in the air, like any number of crosses into the England box, that he may need to put a match to his World Cup blueprint and draw up another. Hoddle said: "We'll have to look at it and maybe do things differently to the way we did them in France."

He did not have the time to develop the point. But among the many things not working in the England side, the back-

three system is the most glaringly obvious. And Adams is the most uncomfortable of the three, his suspect fitness notwithstanding.

Adams is a colossus week in and week out for Arsenal, where he has played with the same familiar trio for years. He has proved that he can replicate that form at international level, though one of his finest games for England, that heroic effort against Argentina in France 98, came after the team had reverted to a back four.

Playing systems, however, are a matter of horses for courses or in this case, perhaps, "Donkeys" for courses. And Adams' lack of pace and mobility is cruelly exposed when he plays in a back three.

He was made so uncomfortable by the speed of the Swedish forwards that their coach Tommy Soderberg was able to say, matter-of-factly rather than boastfully: "The best players on the field were those from the Swedish League."

This leaves the embattled Hoddle with a dilemma. Does he abandon his cherished

proven at international level? The latter may turn out more appealing, particularly as there was a disturbing staleness about the England team in the Rasunda Stadium.

The captain Alan Shearer, who had warned before the game, in so many words, that some of his team-mates

under so much pressure there was little or no service to Shearer or Michael Owen, while the wing-backs Darren Anderton and Graeme Le Saux never did much more than taxi down their runways.

Hoddle masked his hurt with the familiar psychobabble, saying: "We have got to get our aggressive heads on, our positive heads on, before we play our next match against Bulgaria."

If he can just persuade himself for once to use his head for the purpose for which it was designed, he may have to think the unthinkable: either Adams goes or the system goes.

For all his words of support for Adams last week, Hoddle would have no compunction about dropping him from the side. Nobody was particularly fooled by their transparent show of malice in the build-up to Saturday's game and Hoddle is a man of too huge an ego not to have been deeply wounded by some of the criticisms in Adams' book.

Adams will be under no illusions, either, having seen the way Paul Gascoigne was kidded into believing he was being nurtured back to a central role in England's midfield until he was ruthlessly axed on that notorious May afternoon in La Manga. And as Hoddle has said before: "I don't get mad, I get even."

Adams, in any case, is talking again of retirement at the end of the season, concerned about injury and the constant need to play while dosed up with painkillers.

He certainly seems unlikely to play in the European Championship of 2000, assuming England manage to qualify, which can no longer be taken for granted. So Hoddle, assuming he stays on as coach, may wish to start bedding in the defender's successor at once.

If there are many more performances like last Saturday's, Hoddle may not survive to complete phase two of his team-building. And the Football Association might find that they need to hand out painkillers to the crowd as well as to their players.

Does Hoddle gamble on drafting in Rio Ferdinand, whose talents are suited but who is unproven?

back-three-and-wing-backs might be suffering from post-World Cup trauma, wondered aloud afterwards whether it had indeed affected them on the field.

Certainly, it was alarming to see a game crumble so swiftly. With the defence

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Certainly, it was alarming to see a game crumble so swiftly. With the defence

Tale of the tape against Sweden

| | Adams | Campbell | Lee | Martin | Shearer | Steedman | Stoddard |
|---------------------|-------|----------|-----|--------|---------|----------|----------|
| Attempts on target | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Attempts off target | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Passes attempted | 22 | 19 | 25 | 25 | 9 | 28 | 25 |
| Success rate | 81% | 84% | 87% | 88% | 73% | 72% | 85% |
| Tackles | 5 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| Clearances, blocks | 15 | 2 | 17 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 13 |
| Free-kicks conceded | 2 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 2 |

Goal

Yellow card

Red card

Clemente taking the strain in Spain

Alasdair Fotheringham in Madrid

POPULAR and media agreement that Spain's 3-2 defeat in Cyprus in Group Six represents the country's greatest-ever football disaster has inevitably sparked renewed calls for the head of the national coach Javier Clemente.

The locals here were grumbling into their coffee yesterday as they read the newspapers in bars and the trainer's credibility, stretched to the limit after Spain were knocked out in the first round of the World Cup, has finally gone.

"Get out now!" was the headline splashed across Catalonia's El Mundo Deportivo while the heavy-weight Madrid daily El Pais declared "Clemente's position is completely untenable".

Even one of the trainer's

most faithful supporters, the influential radio reporter Jose Maria Garcia, argued that it was time for him to leave, saying: "He has forgotten how he used to organise the game. It's the end of an era." Callers to Garcia's popular late-night programme lined up to agree with him.

But the notoriously stubborn Clemente remained as indifferent to external pressure as he did throughout the World Cup. "If I had known Cyprus were going to be so difficult I would have put in eight defenders," was his initial argument for staying in charge.

When Spanish journalists asked him point-blank if he would be resigning the Basque replied: "No way." The Spanish football federation seems the only institution now backing Clemente and its president Angel Maria Villar said: "Cyprus played very well. We are not going to sack him."

Group Nine: Lithuania 0 Scotland 0

Forlorn Scots lose happy knack

Patrick Glenn in Vilnius hears Craig Brown lament his lack of a Hamish Zidane

THINGS have come to a pretty pass when a scoreless draw with Lithuania is enough to make Scotland the most successful of the British countries who contested this round of Euro 2000 qualifiers.

Cocks of the local walk they may have been drawn with away, and even the post-match psycho-babble expected of a manager trying desperately to talk up a wretched display appeared to have been all but abandoned.

The manager's humour, in fact, in the past has come to his aid in such circumstances, made only a brief appearance as he admitted his problems. "Until we find a Ronaldo or a Hamish Zidane," said Brown. "We will struggle to score goals. But when we find these players? We can't pull rabbits out of a hat."

"We have to give respect to Lithuania for what they did in the match, but we are the seeded team in our group and we looked to do much better. Yes, we defended well enough and they didn't really threaten us, but we didn't threaten them either. We didn't get the ball to our forwards."

In fact, in the towering figure of Edgaras Jankauskas, the forward for whom FC Brugge paid Torpedo Moscow \$1.2 million last season, the Lithuanians had menace

enough to have won. The big man's first-half header low to the right of Jim Leighton from only six yards drew an exceptional save from the veteran goalkeeper.

On another occasion, during a period of sustained home pressure, Lithuania were denied only by Darren Jackson's goal-line clearance.

Perhaps most unnerving of all for Brown is the realisation that his team seem to have mislaid their happy knack of winning games. Peppered with players of only moderate talent throughout his five years in charge, Scotland teams still somehow managed to secure the victories needed to reach the finals of France 98 and the 1996 European Championship.

During the qualifying for France 98 they racked up five successive wins. But this bland draw means they have now completed nine outings without experiencing the satisfaction of a victory. Their last win was in the final World Cup qualifier, against

Latvia at Celtic Park, in October 1997.

Even more disconcerting, there was never the remotest possibility that they would leave Vilnius with more than one point. Throughout the 90 minutes, Scotland contrived not a single scoring attempt.

The introduction of three debutants from the substitutes' bench was Brown's one source of encouragement.

The Blackburn full-back Callum Davidson, who is 22, the Rangers midfielder Barry Ferguson, 20, and the Hearts winger Neil McCann, 24, were so lively — relatively speaking — that the manager confirmed immediately they would "certainly" be in the squad for the next two matches, at home to Estonia and the Faroes.

The match against Estonia on October 10 will be played at Tynecastle in Edinburgh, a venue that will offer a more reliable pitch than Saturday's decrepit stadium containing only around 4,500 spectators.

Dugarry spares blushes of toothless French attack

FRANCE could manage only a 1-1 draw in their opening Group Four qualifier on Saturday in Reykjavik, leaving the French yet to win a match as world champions. "I cannot blame the players," said the new national coach Roger Lemerre.

France's next opponents, Russia, also failed to live up to expectations when they were beaten 3-2 by the Ukraine in Kiev. "Players cannot help but be worried and distracted by what's going on in the country," said Russia's new Ukrainian-born coach Anatoly Byshovets.

cross to equalise only three minutes after Rikhardur Dadasen penalised a 3rd minute blunder by the French goalkeeper Fabien Barthez.

Merson in line for Spurs move

THE unsettled Middlesbrough midfielder Paul Merson may be in line for a quick return to London, possibly to link up with his former manager George Graham at Tottenham.

Aston Villa are expected to make a £6 million bid for the England midfielder, who yesterday confirmed his desire to leave the Teesside club.

However, a close member of Merson's family is reported in a North-east newspaper to have said: "If you want to know about Paul's future, talk to David Platt at Tottenham. He is the one Paul has been talking to."

Merson yesterday denied that Paul Gascoigne was the cause of his unhappiness but admitted he feared that some of his team-mates' liking for drinking and gambling would cause him problems as a recovering alcoholic.

"I will go and see Bryan Robson tomorrow and tell him I may have to quit Middlesbrough for the good of my health," Merson told the News of the World. "A lot of the players here like to have a drink and a bet. The situation

is too much for me — the danger signs are there."

The Middlesbrough manager, Robson, said yesterday he would not comment until he had discussed the situation face-to-face with Merson. "I will not sit down with him until after training so there will be no statement tomorrow. I will answer questions at the usual pre-match press conference on Tuesday."

Newcastle United have denied reports that the Italian Serie A club Parma have made a £40 million (£14 million) bid to reunite Alan Shearer with his former team-mate Faustino Asprilla.

The Italian newspaper Gazzetta dello Sport reported that Parma made an approach for Shearer in June, but balked at Newcastle's £21.1 million asking price and tried to sign Fiorentina's Argentinian forward Gabriel Batistuta instead.

When Batistuta chose last month to stay at Fiorentina, Parma are said to have reopened negotiations with Newcastle after they apparently lowered their asking price.

FA Cup: From Ramsbottom to Wembley

Preliminary round: Ramsbottom United 0 Maine Road 0

Drawing a fair reflection in Lowry land

Jeremy Alexander at the Riverside sees debutants earn a replay amid a PR fanfare

THE ribbons were already on the cup at the Riverside. So were the cameras, with the gateway to the pitch as a backdrop. On a sultry afternoon the players took the field in scarves emblazoned with AXA and discarded them out of shot. Understandably Ramsbottom looked sheepish.

They had never played in the Cup before. It was their first, last held aloft by Spurs in 1991, is being used for new business — a milk cup of sorts. In the big time clubs dance to the tune of sponsors in league with television. After this draw the big time moves to Chorlton can have tomorrow's Maine Road's ground, Manchester City, at home to Bournemouth in the league, may feel the effects.

The score was a fair reflection and the sides'

third draw running. Determined defending, confident goalkeeping and a well-grassed, undulating pitch ask a lot of the most skilful attackers; and there were some neat ones on show. Manchester United would not score 26 here, the competition record Preston put past Hyde in 1887.

There were some near things, though. The Maine Road goalkeeper John Rossell, a printer, denied Kinsell's Brerley in each half, tipping an early shot over and a late header round. Between times Billy McCarthy headed against a post.

At the other end Stuart Heaps was well protected as Carl Trimble held the Ramsbottom line. Heaps is a recent signing from Caernarvon Town, which took Ramsbottom into new territory. They had to get international clearance.

Richard Ferguson's legacy

runs and Robert Stevenson's overlaps posed the most consistent threat. A couple of deflections flew close and Stevenson's rocket, inspired perhaps by the steam engines passing at one end, was well blocked.

When the Green Arrow whistles the referee plays second fiddle. Steve Eaton, who once played in an FA Trophy final for Telford, took six names and a fair bit of stick. With a crowd of 260, everyone can have his say and be heard. "C'mon, it's not the end of the world, it's not the end of the world," rang from the Maine Road dug-out after one decision, as if the laws are different in the preliminary round.

Passion is fierce and the dug-outs are on opposite sides of the pitch but the warm perspective of friendship and laughter are never far behind. At half-time there was a kids' kick-about in one goal. Ramsbottom did not have numbered shirts beyond 15, so forfeited some of their entitlement of five subs. Maine Road agreed to do the same.

From the heights of Holcombe Hill the ground looks like Lowry land. The Peel tower up there was wrongly ascribed on Saturday. It commemorates not huntsman John but Robert Peel and his repealing of the Corn Laws — a case of mixed Peel and apologies.

Ramsbottom, resonant of Stanley Holloway, make no apologies for their crest: a ram's head for reasons of taste. They were rightly pleased with their debut.

"It's great for the players, who can say in later life, 'I played in the FA Cup,'" said John Maher, the secretary. By then cameras and cup were in the changing-room — AXA after money's worth — but not Harry Williams, the Rams' chairman and founder. He was selling pies.

Ramsbottom United (5-3-3): Heaps; Rossell, W. Brerley, Trimble, McCarthy; Goodall, Rhodes, Hardman, Langhorn (C), Brerley, Thompson, R. Brerley.

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Football

First Division

Birmingham 1 Bury 0

Francis is not short of a striker

Peter White

THE Birmingham manager Trevor Francis is ready to add weight to the theory that size is not important when it comes to his strike force at St Andrew's.

If Dele Adebola, all 6ft 3in of him, fails to recover from the calf injury he sustained scoring Saturday's winner against Bury, then Francis will have no hesitation in calling on the teenager Andrew Johnson, barely 5ft 6in, to lead the attack at home against Stockport tomorrow night.

Johnson, the second-half substitute for Adebola by Luton for being too small. But after being given a trial by Birmingham, he has now become, at 17 years and six months, the third youngest player in the club's history to appear at senior level, behind Francis himself and Neil Sprouth.

Francis is in no doubt about the talents of the young striker.

He said: "I am sure Andrew has a very bright future. He has done well in two appearances as substitute. He is very quick and has the ability to run past defenders."

Johnson said: "The fact that Luton told me I was too small acted as a spur. Since then I have made it my job to prove them wrong."

The victory over Bury elevated Birmingham to third in the First Division, equal on points with Sunderland and Wolverhampton, the only two clubs above them. Indeed, one more goal would have lifted them above Wolves, but for his efforts they were frustrated by the agility and experience of Bruce Grobbelaar.

The former Liverpool keeper, 41 next month, made a one-off appearance for the visitors and showed he could still perform at the highest level for any number of clubs in the lower divisions. But for a wretched error by Bury's skipper Chris Lucketti, who let in Adebola for the 20th-minute winner, Grobbelaar would have kept a clean sheet.

Having begun the season in the Royals League with Chesham, Grobbelaar stepped in as cover for the first-choice Dean Kiely, away on international duty with the Republic of Ireland.

Grobbelaar said later: "I would love to still be playing regularly. I am not old and I am baffled why no one has come in for me."

Steve Bruce, the Sheffield United manager, blamed international call-ups for his side's 1-0 defeat, from a goal scored by Wayne Allison, at Huddersfield. Bruce, without Wales' Dean Saunders and the Greek Vass Boborkis, complained about having to play a tough derby game without two of his best players. "It's simply crazy," he said.

Bruce, who also missed the game with a hamstring injury, has further worries with the loss of David Goldworthy, the damaged medial knee ligaments.

Stockport's striker Brett Angell scored two more goals to see off Grimsby, adding to the ex-Sunderland player's two against Wolves in midweek.

Phil Whitehead's reflexes denied a full-length header from John Aloisi. The goal-keeper then went the other

FA Carling Premiership

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| Liverpool | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| Aston Villa | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| Nottm Forest | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Charlton | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Wimbledon | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Arsenal | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| Leeds | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| West Ham | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Leicester | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Coventry | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Blackburn | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Sheff Wed | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Derby | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Tottenham | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | -4 | 3 |
| Man Utd | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Middlesbrough | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | -2 | 2 |
| Newcastle | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | -3 | 2 |
| Chelsea | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -1 | 1 |
| Everton | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | -3 | 1 |
| Southampton | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | -7 | 0 |

International matches

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING

GROUP ONE

Belarus v Denmark (1990)

Wales v Italy (1992)

Wales v Italy (1992)

Wales v Italy (1992)

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GROUP NINE

Belarus v Denmark (1990)

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Nationwide League

FIRST DIVISION

| | P | W | D | L | F | A | W | D | L | F | A | GD | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| Sheff Wed | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| Aston Villa | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 7 |
| Nottm Forest | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| Charlton | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Wimbledon | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| Arsenal | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| Leeds | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 5 |
| West Ham | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 |
| Leicester | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Coventry | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Blackburn | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| Sheff Wed | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 3 |
| Derby | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Tottenham | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | -4 | 3 |
| Man Utd | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Middlesbrough | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | -2 | 2 |
| Newcastle | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | -3 | 2 |
| Chelsea | 2 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | -1 | 1 |
| Everton | 3 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 2 | -3 | 1 |
| Southampton | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | -7 | 0 |

SECOND DIVISION

THIRD DIVISION

PREMIER LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

SECOND DIVISION

THIRD DIVISION

PREMIER LEAGUE

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PREMIER LEAGUE

With a common

As competitors from all over the globe converge on Kuala Lumpur for the Commonwealth Games which start this week, we profile seven athletes from these shores who are set to make a big impact in Malaysia



Kelly Morgan, Wales

THE first British singles player to reach the world top 10 and the favourite for a gold medal sounds as though she might be an early dividend on the millions of pounds invested through the National Lottery in English badminton.

Far from it, Kelly Morgan is from Wales where funding is at a lower level than in England and for much of her career she has had to soldier on with little money. This has necessitated lengthy stints in France and Denmark which have been lonely, if character-forming.

Morgan is modest and understated but extraordinarily determined and talented. She reached the final of the European Championships in Sofia in April and since

returning to Cardiff last year she has seen off all domestic opposition.

She has become so much stronger than her movement, long reach and consistency have become difficult for all but the leading handful of players to break down. "She's only 23 and I don't think we yet know how much she can achieve," says her coach Chris Rees.

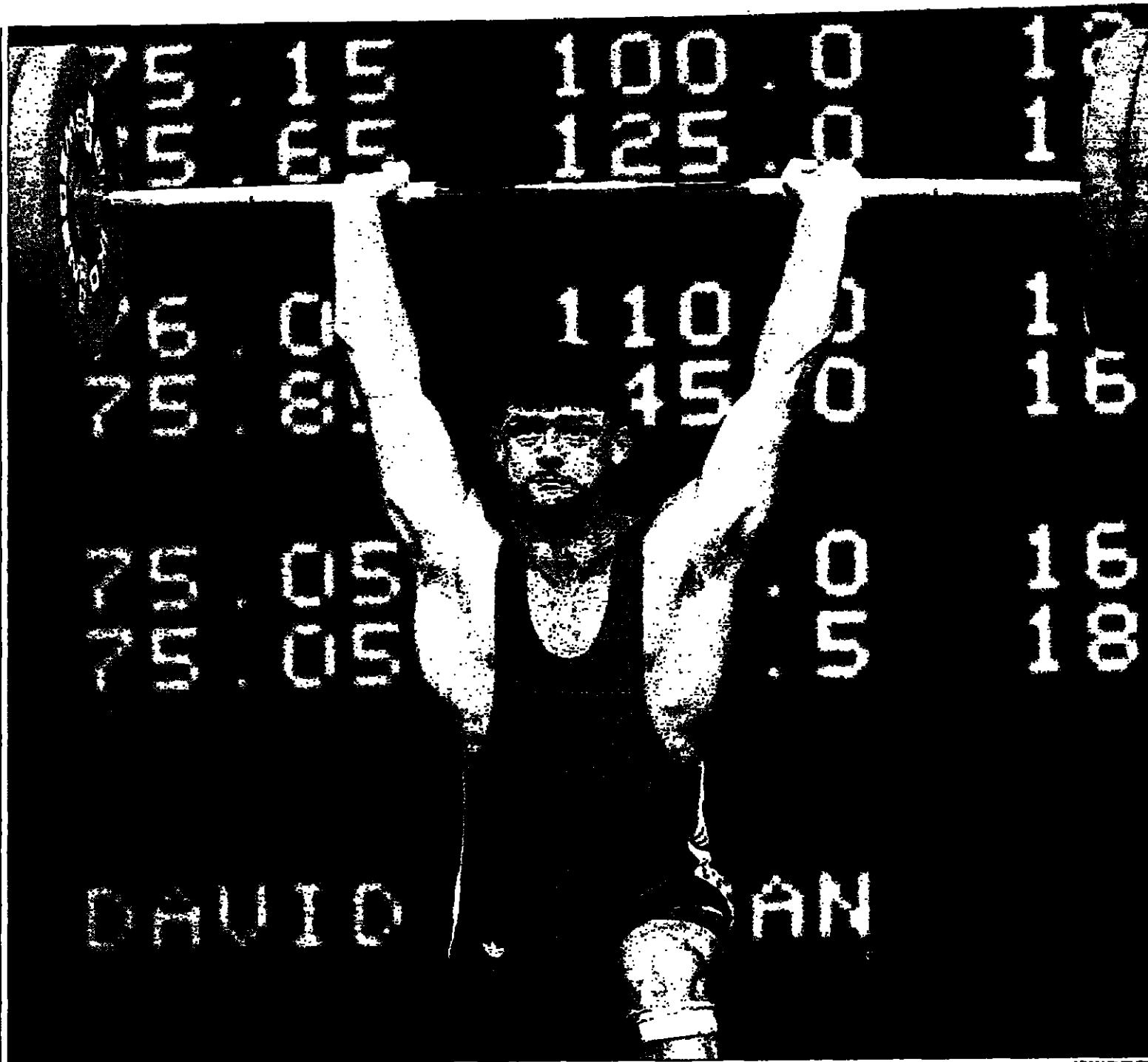
Morgan has been preparing for the debilitating conditions likely to be encountered in Kuala Lumpur by training in the "chamber of hell" at the Welsh National Sports Centre. In a small room heated up to 32C or more with 90 per cent humidity, Morgan has worked out for an hour at a time.

Her nearest rivals appear to

be England's Julia Mann, Anne Gibson of Scotland, the New Zealander Rhona Robertson, India's improving youngster Aparna Popat, and Zarinah Abdullah from Singapore. But the odds are against any of them upsetting Morgan unless she upsets herself as she did briefly in the European final.

"When I came into the arena and sensed the atmosphere I thought 'Ooooooh'," Morgan said then, explaining why for a game and a half against Denmark's Casilla Martin she was below her best. Now she sounds better prepared mentally: "I try not to think about the Commonwealth title too much because it puts added pressure. I will just try to be positive and play my own game."

Richard Jago



David Morgan, Wales

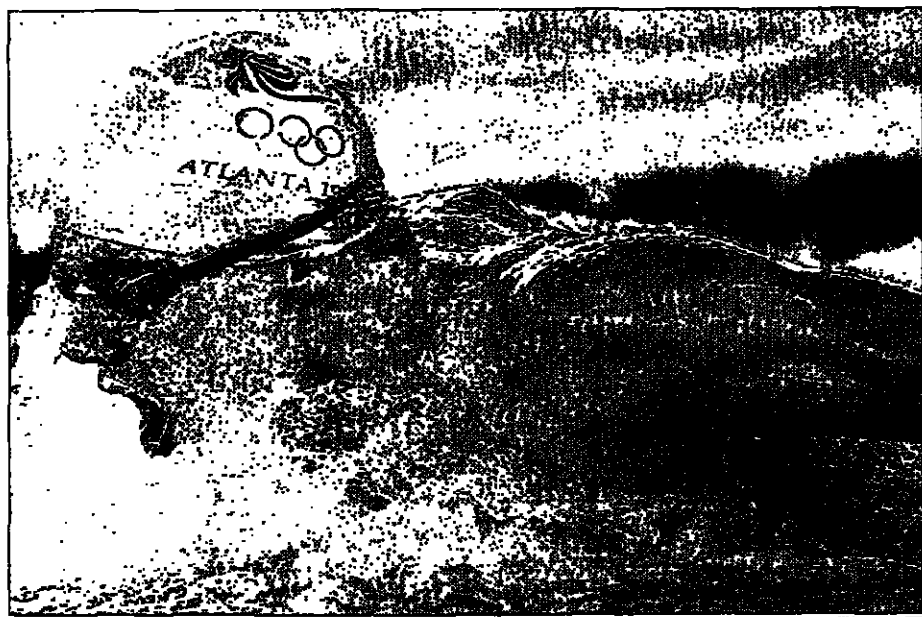
IF this 33-year-old Welshman wins another weightlifting gold medal at the Commonwealth Games maybe he should consider changing his name — to something like Priceless Morgan, perhaps. In Victoria in 1994 he equalled Precious McKenzie's record of collecting gold medals at four consecutive Games and he is now seeking to achieve something even more valuable in Kuala Lumpur. No one in any sport has won gold medals in five

Games and David Morgan has come out of retirement to try and make the dream a reality. He hung up his dumb-bells after Victoria but came back at the start of this year. "I started feeling if I was ever going to do something truly unique then it was now or never," he said. It was in Brisbane in 1982 that Morgan competed as a 17-year-old and shocked the weightlifting world by winning the first of his seven gold medals. "It means just as much to me now as it did then to

win a Commonwealth gold medal," he said. "It's a big thing in this country." A change of Christian name might also help Morgan receive some long overdue recognition. McKenzie carved out a career as a television personality on the back of his achievements, but Morgan remains a largely anonymous figure outside his own sport. McKenzie was adopted as a lovable English hero and appeared on Blue Peter and Celebrity Squares. But he competed

in a less sceptical era: Morgan's career has been blighted by the sins of others. Weightlifting is plagued by the curse of drugs like no other sport. In Auckland in 1990, two Welsh competitors, Gareth Hives and Rickie Chaplin, failed drug tests. Morgan's delight at winning gold there gave way to bitterness when he became aware of the constant innuendo that his family and friends had to endure back home. Even in Victoria his achievement was partly

overshadowed by further drug scandals involving English athletes Paul Edwards and Diane Modahl. Throughout Morgan's reputation has been unblemished. At 5ft 9in, his 12 stone frame ripples with muscles. "The media often focus on the super-heavyweights, but they're fat guys who give the rest of us a bad name. When people see me in normal clothes they don't expect me to be a weightlifter. They are expecting some huge Russian." Duncan Mackay



James Hickman, England

SO FAR the build-up to Kuala Lumpur has gone according to plan for the English swimmer who has a chance of four individual medals. He is not lying in bed, attached to a saline drip hanging from the wardrobe, as he was before the European Championships in Seville; neither has he split up with his coach as he did shortly before the World Championships earlier this year in Perth.

In fact, James Hickman's preparations have been remarkably straightforward. Thousands of lengths of the Leeds International Pool, an hour a day in the gym, and occasional contemplation of the Games that can finally bring him acclaim.

Hickman is ranked third in the 100m butterfly and 200m and 400m medleys. But it is in the 100 fly that he is expected to lift England's spirits by taking the gold.

The two days that he spent

on that drip in Seville, the worst casualty among the British team of a stomach bug that caused him to lose almost a stone in weight, remain etched on his memory. "I was so focused that I kept telling myself crazy things, like that if I was lighter I would be able to go faster. I was up for the event and I didn't let it go. I made the B final, but my time was one-and-a-half seconds slower than I had swum."

Hickman retreated to Menorca with his girlfriend, rebuilt his strength on a diet of milk and steak, and reset his sights on the Leeds International Pool. But further disruption followed when he left Stockport Metro, his club since childhood, and his coach Dave Callejo.

The move was necessary, but perhaps it was ill timed. Hickman was fifth in the World Championships, looking well placed for a bronze medal until he tied

up on the third 50 and finished fifth.

"Dave had known me too long as a child and, as I grew older, I needed to develop some independence, to learn from my own mistakes," Hickman explained last week before he left for the England swimming team's acclimatisation camp in Singapore.

Under the guidance of Terry Denison, who coached Adrian Moorhouse to breaststroke Olympic gold, he is confident that he can make the breakthrough.

The switch from Stockport's cramped pool to Leeds' 50-metre facility, now adopted as an official regional centre, has enabled Hickman to explore the extent of his endurance. There are few more ebullient swimmers about, but this time it should also be a far more assured Hickman who competes for Commonwealth gold. David Hopps

Desmond Curry, Northern Ireland



Way back when Frank Keating meets the Welsh wizard who gave South Africa the boot in the Thirties

Master class... Vivian Jenkins lectures boys at Dover College in 1933
PHOTOGRAPH: HULTON GETTY

PRECISELY 60 years ago, the 1938 British Lions in South Africa were aboard a steamer en route to Cape Town from Port Elizabeth. They were now two down in the three-Test rubber, having lost 26-13 in Johannesburg on August 6 and 19-3 in Port Elizabeth on September 3. After the sea journey, they rousing beat the Springboks at Newlands 21-16, at the end of which the British Isles captain Sammy Walker was shouldered from the field by a thrilled and generous throng.

Walker later became a celebrated BBC radio commentator on rugby. He died at 69 in 1972. The Lions' full-back

Vivian Jenkins recalls: "Sammy was a wonderful fellow, an inspiring leader who never stopped beguiling all southern Africa with When Irish Eyes are Smiling."

A "wonderful fellow" too is Jenkins himself. He will be 67 this November 2. Born at Port Talbot, Jenkins won Oxford Blues at cricket and rugby and kept wicket for Glamorgan on and off between 1931 and 1937.

But it was his cricketer's flypaper hands, his pruning shears' tackles, and spiralling torpedo kicks which made him a legend on the rugby fields of Wales and the world through the Thirties — and even moreso later when he

became a sportswriter for the Sunday Times and covered with distinction and grace MCC cricket tours and six further Lions tours till 1974.

Jenkins has had three hip operations but, bright-eyed and chuckle constant in his Herefordshire home, he remains full of both the joys and his rich and rewarding memories.

"They were mighty long tours then. In 1938 we went there and back by Union Castle liner. We won 11 of our 14 matches before the first Test, but I mostly remember the travelling. We measured travel times in days, not hours. Except for the 35-mile

bitumen road between Jo'burg and Pretoria, every road was unmade and corrugated and you could be shaken to pieces in a car. So we went mostly by rail.

"Before the first Test, we had to go from the Cape all the way up to Rhodesia for two matches, then back to play Transvaal — it was seven nights out of 11 sleeping in a train. Oh, no, not an express — 30mph maximum, narrow-gauge, single track, and special passing places when we were diverted into sidings."

Dinner-jackets de rigueur for every man says the legend? "What do you mean, dinner-jackets? White-tie and tails

and the full works, old boy, if you don't mind."

The schedule seemed even worse than today's. "We were sent like yo-yos from altitude to sea level and back again. In Johannesburg your golf drives were flying 200 yards, in Durban the same shot was 200 yards. From full-back, my clearing punts on the High Veldt would go 70-80 yards, down at Newlands 60-65 yards."

In the first Test, the history books say "three times in the first-half prodigious kicks by Jenkins gave the Lions the lead each time". The old man smiles and says: "To my dying day, I'll never forget one of

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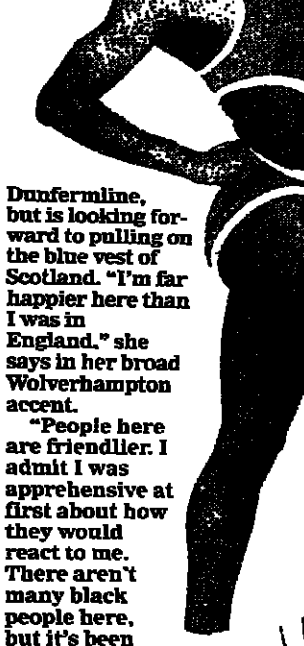
goal

Pauline Richards, Scotland

THERE will be more than one British competitor aiming for medal glory in the heptathlon, England's Denise Lewis may be the favourite to take gold, but Pauline Richards, aka Rocket of Gladiators, is ready and fuelled for a tartan take off at the Games.

Richards was born in the Midlands but qualifies to represent Scotland, having lived long enough in Fife to establish residential qualifications.

The 6ft, 13 stone Richards admits she cuts a strange figure in



Dunfermline, but is looking forward to pulling on the blue vest of Scotland. "I'm far happier here than I was in England," she says in her broad Wolverhampton accent.

"People here are friendlier. I admit I was apprehensive at first about how they would react to me. There aren't many black people here, but it's been brilliant. I cannot pretend I'm Scottish, but I will be proud to wear the tartan in Kuala Lumpur."

She moved to Scotland to be closer to her coach John Anderson, who is better known as the American football-style referee of Gladiators.

"I thought this was just another large lady who wanted to try out for Gladiators, so I let her off," recalls Anderson. "But she said she wanted me to coach her."

Anderson refused initially because he said the fact that he lived in Fife and she was in Wolverhampton made it an unworkable arrangement.

So Richards quit her job and moved north. "I was impressed with her commitment," says Anderson.

Richards, 29, comes from good sporting stock. Two of her six brothers have played cricket professionally, two box and another was a good class 400 metres runner.

But behind this tale of success there is profound sadness. Her brother Michael, who fought under the name of Tucker Richards and sparred with Frank Bruno and Lennox Lewis, died in 1992 of a heart attack, aged 25.

"It was caused by congestion of the heart, where the valve doesn't pump blood quickly enough," Richards explains.

It was the start of a nightmare 12 months during which her 10-year relationship with the international hurdler Andy Tulloch ended; she lost her job as a fashion

buyer; split with her coach; got heavily into debt; and wrote off an uninsured car.

"I am surprised I lived," she says. "Overall, I was a complete mess. It just all did my head in."

One day I had a problem at the bank, burst into tears and ran out. I couldn't work out why I reacted like that until I realised it was Michael's death finally sinking in.

Anderson helped Richards get back on her feet when he arranged an audition for Gladiators last year.

However, she was selected on her own merits and her life has been in orbit ever since.

She is managed by the former Olympic javelin champion Tessa Sanderson, who arranges celebrity appearances.

"I made it, and that has solved the financial problems. It also allows me to train full time."

There must be something in the air about Wolverhampton, because Lewis is also from the city.

Anderson predicts: "Pauline can score 6,000 points which should put her in medal contention."

If that happens, Rocket will be among the stars.

Duncan Mackay



Chris Sheasby, England

FOR the Harlequins No. 8, there might have been a touch of déjà vu as he met his England team-mates at Heathrow on Saturday night. As the sevens squad flew to Malaysia yesterday for the inaugural rugby competition, Chris Sheasby's thoughts are likely to have gone back to the spring of 1993 when a similar bunch of star-eyed Englishmen were picked for the World Cup Sevens tournament in Edinburgh.

Five years ago the inexperienced England squad founded the world in the land which invented sevens — and affronted the Scots — by winning the trophy after defeating the David Copperfield of the final at Murrayfield.

Sheasby is the only playing survivor from 1993 and very much the senior-pro among the 10 who will represent Eng-

land in Malaysia. There the player known by some of his old team-mates as 'The Duke' will team up with 'The Prince', the player formerly known as Andrew Harrison, another hero from Edinburgh and now the England sevens coach.

"I'm quietly excited about this tournament. There are shades of '93 everywhere you look," says Sheasby. "We managed to get together for three training sessions before flying off and the squad have gelled. They have lots of potential."

Jim Jenner, for instance, is tall, strong and powerful. A Tim Rodber-style player.

"Nick Baxter, the Worcester wing, scored 16 tries in the Safari Sevens which I've just got back from in Kenya. He's in the Jeff Wilson mould, a very muscular player. Mike Friday, the Wasps scrum-half, is a very snappy player; per-

fect for sevens and the Saracens centre Chris Davies will also make an impact."

England, who arrived in Kuala Lumpur earlier today, have got little time to acclimatise to the high humidity before playing Bermuda in their first group game on Saturday. The group also includes Kenya and Tonga.

Sheasby has always given sevens priority and thinks more English players should do the same. "Players like Jonah Lomu and Christian Cullen holed their game through sevens. There's no hiding place, you need to think on your feet and make decisions under pressure."

"And it's wonderfully ironic, isn't it, that in a game which we give little credit here, we have won our only World Cup."

Ken Mallin

Jon Mutch, Scotland

THE most promising young male gymnast in Britain could have an identity problem at these Games. He will be competing for Scotland, considers himself English and could, as his mother says, be born in Malaysia.

Mutch, 18, proved his talent at the European Championships in St Petersburg in May by finishing 10th overall in the junior competition, the best achievement by a British junior.

He was born in Aberdeen but spent precious little time there, moving at nine months to Lowestoft. So bright was his talent that by his 11th birthday he had changed his name to Kings Lynn to be nearer his coach, Paul Hall, and was effectively being fostered by a couple at the club after his parents separated. A year later he moved to Huntingdon, and trained at the gym there.

His progress has been swift and in the past three years he has won National age-group titles at under-16 (twice) and under-18 (once).

Kuala Lumpur will be the only the fourth occasion that the Games have featured gymnastics and, till now, a Scottish competitor has never placed higher than Steve Frew's fifth on the high bar in 1994.

While the Games are Mutch's baptism at a senior international championship, he will have aspirations in the high bar and floor and could come close to a medal in the all-around competition.

Mutch will not be lacking support. His father David, mother Margaret, sister Tanya, uncles Sheila and Dorothy and grandparents Marianne and



Ken, who live in Aberdeen, are all flying out from the UK.

When the gymnastics are over, they will go on to Sabah and spend three weeks at Membekut, the kampong (village) where his grandmother grew up, where she met his

grandfather Ken, who was in the RAF and where his mother was born. Mutch will be greeted as one of the family and, if there is a medal round his net, they will doubtless count it as one for Malaysia.

Pete Nichols

Games timetable

Opening ceremony Sept 11
Athletics
Sept 16-21
Highlights: 16: Men's 10,000m, women's hammer throw, 17: Men's and women's 100m, women's 400m, men's discus, 18: Men's 400m, women's triple jump, women's discus, 19: Men's and women's 200m, men's high jump, women's long jump, 20: Men's and women's marathons, women's high jump, women's discus, men's 100m hurdles, men's long jump, 21: Men's javelin, men's and women's 1500m, men's and women's 4x100m relay.

Badminton Sept 9-21
Bowls Sept 12-20
Boxing Sept 12-20
Cricknet Sept 9-19
Cycling Sept 12-20
Highlights: 12-15: Road racing, 17-20: Pursuits and sprints.
Diving Sept 18-20
Highlights: 18: Women's and men's 1m springboard, 19: Women's platform, men's 3m springboard, 20: Women's 3m springboard, men's platform.
Gymnastics Sept 12-21
Hockey Sept 9-20

Netball Sept 14-21
Rugby Union Sept 12-14
Shooting Sept 7-20
Squash Sept 12-20
Swimming Sept 12-17
Highlights: 12: Women's 100m freestyle, 13: Men's 100m butterfly, 14: Men's 100m freestyle, women's 4x100m freestyle, women's 100m freestyle, 15: Men's 800m freestyle, women's 50m freestyle, 17: Women's 50m freestyle, men's 4x100m medley relay.
Tennis Sept 13-16
Weightlifting Sept 16-19

Clean and jerks of the snatch squad remain Lightyears behind

FAIR GAME

Julie Welch

ONE of the lasting charms of the Commonwealth Games is that they are full of sportsmen and women who are not making lots of money by serialising their books in the Sun. They are for the likes of weightlifters, netball players and tennis bowlers: normal people with day-time careers in fish packing or the post office.

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Weightlifting has never really caught on as a TV sport: the viewer finds it hard to appreciate the skill and effort involved. This is because it mainly consists of bending down, picking up something very heavy and putting it down again without falling sideways or accidentally lobbing 200kg of metal into the judges' teeth.

Another reason why weightlifters are not regular guests on A Question Of

Sport or They Think It's All Over is that they are very gloomy people. This is due to the fact that whereas no machine on earth would reproduce the speed and balance of Michael Owen, the concentration and grace of Brian Lara or the power and stickability of Greg Rusedski, even the best weightlifter on the planet knows that a forklift truck could do 10 times the job in a quarter of the time.

Equally meaningless to the uninformed spectator are those numbers, such as 385 or 155, on the scoreboard. A much better idea would be to describe the weights in everyday terms: it's much easier to appreciate someone's achievement if told that he has just hoisted the equivalent of two night club bouncers over his head. Meanwhile, the scoreboards could be used to disseminate useful information such as traffic updates or Glenn Hoddle's home phone number for people to ring him with helpful suggestions about team selection.

Weightlifters are made even more morose by the knowledge that while tennis players are allowed to dress up in colourful, zappy outfits such as Hawaiian shirts and pedal pushers all they get to wear are leotards. At least it might make a more interesting spectacle if an element of fancy dress was introduced to the competition, like making them lift the dumb-bells over their heads while wearing a Carmen Miranda-style hat or asking them to perform the snatch on roller skates.

The Commonwealth Games organisers might also consider adapting the multi-discipline format of the biathlon in the Winter Olympics and have weightlifters trying to shoot dumb-bells through hoops, then rolling them along the platform to see how many fellow competitors they could knock down. This would also have the virtue of economy as it would cut out the need to run separate competitions for netball and tennis bowling. One more reason for

weightlifters' dissatisfaction is that they are unusually prone to colds; at least one or other of them always seem to be suffering from some over-the-counter nose-trick which they are innocently taking to relieve their symptoms.

Looking on the bright side, although a weightlifter who wants to get something in print might not find any takers for his autobiography, he is ideally placed to write the definitive work on cold cures. The advantage of living with a weightlifter is that he comes in very useful to hold your house up when you knock through a load-bearing wall to enlarge the kitchen, then realise you've forgotten to use a rolled steel joist.

WEIGHTLIFTING categories have names which suggest urgent dynamic male activity: clean and jerk, pumping iron, close shave, roll over and start snoring. However, potential female admirers tend to be put off by the fact that though seven days a week they are working out, they produce the body of a Greek god it also leaves a face stuck in a permanent grimace.

Making conversation with weightlifters can be difficult as they are programmed only to communicate in a limited number of ways. Like those talking Buzz Lightyears whose conversation dried up after:

"To infinity — and beyond!" weightlifters will respond to anything from "Did you remember to put Brillo pads on the shopping list?" to "Do you think Russia should abandon all attempts at making a capitalist economy work?" with a series of grunts interspersed by the occasional "Oof". It's also best not to stand too close to them when they are in action, not just because you might catch their cold but because you might rapidly discover what it's like to have two night-club bouncers dropped on your foot.

Peat chases the rainbow's end in race of a lifetime

CENTRE STAGE

Pete Nichols

IN Britain, about two million adults play football regularly. It is roughly the same number of people (though not always the same people) who ride mountain bikes. On the evening that England played Argentina in France 96, 23.6 million viewers tuned in to watch the game. When the World Mountain Bike Championships begin next weekend at Mont Sainte Anne, Quebec there will be more spokes coming down the mountain that week than there will be viewers for Sky's coverage.

That is because there is no crossover between the recreation of mountain biking and the sport, which makes it tough on Steve Peat. The Sheffield rider chose the wrong branch of the sport anyway when, six years ago, he was persuaded to take part in his first race.

Peat won and, though once a good enough footballer to play for Sheffield Boys, has gone on to become Britain's very best downhill racer. Unfortunately, when the sport went Olympic in Atlanta, they only accepted the cross-country riders. The wild men and women of the downhill discipline were left out.

If that limits the bounds of his ambition, it is not evident. Peat is enthusiastic about a lifestyle that has taken him this summer to World Cup races in Spain, Italy, Austria, Japan, American and Canada and brings him a respectable income as well from his contract with the American-based Team GT outfit.

The really tough part comes in winter when they train for six months in California, at Huntington Beach, south of Los Angeles. "I'm really happy, it's going cool," he says and you would expect to hear nothing less.

Peat had his first season only three years ago and the progress has been rapid. From 31st in his first World Cup campaign, he leapt to sixth in his second year on the circuit. He could have been second last year, but a stack (fall) in the final cost him places and he finished eighth overall.

Spills are part and parcel of downhill racing: Peat dislocated his hip in pre-season



training and recently underwent an operation on his elbow for a damaged bursa sac. In some races, where the gradient is steep and the course direct, they can reach speeds of 60mph. That is the downside, when you come off the bike it hurts. It can hurt the bike, too, and the GT Lobo that Peat rides costs about £5,000.

Like the rest of the world's downhill racers, Peat is hanging on the coattails of the Nicolas Vouilloz. The Frenchman is everyone's choice to keep the title he first won at Cairns, Australia two years ago and has retained in Chateau d'Oex, Switzerland last September.

He is the sport's superstar, with earnings to match (say \$500,000 a year). In Japan, in the last World Cup race before Canada, 15,000 fans saw him swoop for another victory and another World Cup title. "I don't like the mud," said the Frenchman, but he won in a mire anyway.

Peat has beaten Vouilloz once this year, at the fifth World Cup event (out of eight) on the Snoqualmie course in the foothills of the Wenatchee mountains near Seattle. Peat described the course as technical, but that sells it short.

"Wicked," said the official race report of the 3,000 metre path through rocks and gravel, which included one sheer six-foot drop. Peat revelled in it, the 24-year-old recording his first World Cup victory and, in the process,

defeating Vouilloz by almost three seconds. The technically demanding rides suit the Briton: the more jumps, twists and turns the better. It may be in the genes; his dad Tony was a top Trials rider for six years and that too is about balance and control, even the bike in question is a sight saver. Rob Warner, the No 1 British rider, also came from a Trials background.

Peat flies to Canada at the end of this week. The Championships begin on Saturday, but they have eight days training before the downhill the following weekend.

The title is decided over a single run, probably lasting less than seven minutes. There are no second chances. "All that way just for one run," says Peat, but there is no exasperation, the riders are attuned to the all or nothing philosophy.

If you win, you wear the rainbow jersey for the whole of the next season. The wardrobe of Vouilloz would seem empty without it, but Peat knows that, with his own Team GT contract up for renewal this autumn, there could be no better bargaining counter than a close-run race with the Frenchman.

In Quebec, Vouilloz will not be without support and, dauntingly, the last time an Englishman went to those parts and won anything was probably James Wolfe, and he did it on the plains, not on a mountain.

them — from just a yard outside my own 10-yard line. It just sailed into the stratosphere and kept going straight as an arrow.

"I remember still our great Irish lock, Blair Mayne, swearing behind me in the wonder of it as the ball soared high between the posts and 60-or-three yards away and one of them forwards after words told me it would still have cleared the bar if I'd taken it from 10 yards further back.

"To be honest, we only made great friends with the English-speaking Springbok players, terrific chaps like Freddie Turner, the centre, or

fly-half Tony Harris, who was also a South African cricketer and as an attacking 'Ty' almost on a par, I'd say, with Cliff Morgan. The Afrikaaner players struck mostly to themselves — in fact, even when I became a journalist it was 17 years before that famous Springbok captain of 1938, Danie Craven, so much as addressed a single word to me.

In the last five minutes of that first Test, Jenkins badly pulled a hamstring muscle and he missed the second and third. His fellow Oxford Blue Charlie Grieve of Scotland deputised and helped to win the epic third Test with a crucial drop goal. By then there were a string of other cracks and only 17 fit men to choose from for that heroic last stand at Cape Town, where eight of the XV were Irishmen.

"What fun we had, what a companionship between us, all for one, one for all. Mayne was a mighty Irishman and he and our great Welsh hooker Bunner Travers particularly teamed up in a gorgeous way. Travers was a coal-trimmer. At Durban, say, or Cape Town, of an evening the two of them would tug up like rough matelots, go down to the docks and hang around looking for a punch-up just for the fun and

the hell of it, the more ferocious the better.

"Once at Durban, the rest of us in our white ties and tails were filing into a tremendously posh ball, our ladies in all their finery on our arms — and Blair and Bunner, out and about all of us have gone now," the ancient warrior says with a sigh.

"But I just thank God that us chaps had the best of it, the fun of our lives through the joys of rugby. Not any more. I watch my beloved cricket now; so much more to cricket to absorb you. This new rugby's not remotely the same game, I'm just not interested in it any more, sorry and all that."

only 40, near his Newtownards home in 1955 when his car hit a lamppost late at night.

"He was an astonishingly wild, good man. But those youthful sporting comrades were all terrific fellows — and just about all of us have gone now," the ancient warrior says with a sigh.

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Spills are part and parcel of downhill racing: Peat dislocated his hip in pre-season

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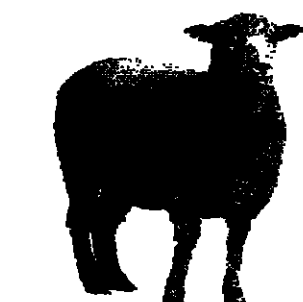
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Racing

Improving colt routs top-class field in Prix du Moulin at Longchamp. Chris Hawkins reports

Desert storms home for Loder

DESERT Prince, trained by David Loder, scored a great British triumph in the Group One Emirates Prix du Moulin at Longchamp yesterday beating opposition from France, Ireland and Japan with a measure of authority.

Oliver Pezlier rode Desert Prince and seized the initiative with a decisive move at halfway, eventually running home a comfortable three-lengths winner from the Crispette Head-trained Gold Away with Aidan O'Brien's Second Empire two lengths away third.

Seeking The Pearl, the Japanese filly who created something of a sensation when taking the Prix Maurice de Gheest at Deauville last month, tried to make all the running but found the mile beyond her and faded to finish fifth.

Desert Prince, winner of the Irish 2,000 Guineas, was second to Dr Fong at Royal Ascot and will take on that rival again in the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot on September 26.

"We reckon he's improved 10lb since he was second at Royal Ascot," said Loder. "After the Q&E the plan is to go for the Breeders' Cup Mile and then retire him to the Irish National Stud."

At The Curragh, Eadhiya kept the seven furlongs Moylagre Stud Stakes at home when running on strongly to capture the Group One prize from Fear and Greed and Crystal Downs.

Green Desert, sire of Desert Prince, scored a Group One weekend double when his son Tamarisk raced to a scintillating victory in the Stanley Leis-



Complete control... Tamarisk and Tim Sprake have the Stanley Leisure Sprint Cup firmly in their grasp at Haydock

PHOTO: JULIAN HERBERT

sure Sprint Trophy at Haydock on Saturday. The result threw the sprint championship into turmoil, although so emphatic was Tamarisk's triumph that when everything is totted up at the end of the season he may well be regarded as the most deserving of the crown.

Lochangel, winner of the Nunthorpe Stakes, Elnadim, winner of the July Cup, Bolshoi, winner of the King's Stand Stakes and Land of Dreams, winner of the King George Stakes, were all routed.

Lochangel and Frankie Dettori looked the only threat to Tamarisk's triumph, but the filly felled the fast and faded to leave the last-finishing Bolshoi to take second.

Tamarisk began the season by contesting the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, but despite a pedigree which suggested he would stay a mile his keen style of racing was all against him.

"We tried to teach him to stay as he doesn't have the physique of a typical sprinter but it was no good," said trainer Roger Charlton.

For Charlton this win came as a welcome boost. With only 14 winners he has been struggling with a reduced string of mostly moderate horses this season.

The big disappointment of Saturday's race was Elnadim, who had beaten Tamarisk into second in the July Cup at Newmarket but seemed to fall apart here at halfway.

John Dunlop, his trainer, commented yesterday: "He's obviously got a problem, but at the moment we don't know what it is. When he got to full stretch he lost his action and

only raced for three furlongs. It wasn't the ground — that was perfect. It's all very mystifying and worrying."

Jack Berry will run Bolshoi in the Beeders' Cup Sprint at Churchill Downs, while Ian Balding will switch Lochangel back to five furlongs for the Prix de l'Abbaye de Longchamp.

Dunlop confirmed that Elnadim has been supplemented at a cost of £20,000 for Saturday's Pertemps St Leger at Doncaster.

Godolphin still have four in the Stewards' Handicap, but

Nedawi, Mutawwaj and Central Park — but final running plans will not be made until later in the week.

Sea Wave is even with Ladbrokes for the race, who then bet 5-1 Nedawi, 8-1 Central Park, The Glow-Worm, 10-1 Sunshine Street, High And Low, Sadian, 14-1 Tal-Lin.

Irish challenger Sunshine Street, fourth in the Epsom Derby, will travel over tomorrow, but will only run if the ground is good or faster on the day warned trainer Noel Meade.

Hamilton with guide to the form

| TONY FALEY | TOP FORM |
|-------------------|----------------|
| 2.15 Palace Green | Swamp Gracioso |
| 2.45 Miffy Mornay | La Doyenne |
| 3.15 Stables | Peasey Point |
| 3.45 Miffy Mornay | Wood Venture |
| 4.15 Miffy Mornay | Westbridge |
| 4.45 Miffy Mornay | Spartan Royale |

Straight 5 with peer-shaped right-handed colt course of 1m2f and 5f run-in. SHT climb to winning post.

Going: Soft. ★ Donkeys blunders.

Draw: High numbers best up to 1m.

Seven day winners: None.

Blindfolded first time: 2.15 Xyrone. Winner: 3.15 Ajax.

2.15 HYNDFOUR NURSERY HANDICAP 2YO

1m 55yds £3,453 (7 declared)

1.18 11526 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.19 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

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1.31 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.32 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.33 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.34 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.35 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.36 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.37 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.38 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.39 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.40 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

2.45 TEAM KIER APPRENTICE SERIES HANDICAP

1m 55yds £2,528 (18 declared)

1.11 11200 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.12 11200 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.13 11200 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.14 11200 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.15 11200 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.16 11200 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.17 11200 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.18 11200 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

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1.30 11200 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

2.00 BATH JACKPOT CARD RUNNERS AND RIDERS

Left-handed track of just over 15m with 4f run-in which rises all the way to the finish. Separate extension for races over 5f, 5f 10yds.

Going: Soft. ★ Donkeys blunders.

Draw: Low numbers best.

Seven day winners: 2.00 Over the Counter; 5.00 Clouds Equine.

Blindfolded first time: 2.30 Arrington Girl; 5.00 Longwick Lad.

Victims: 2.30 Surrogate; 5.00 Surrogate.

Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

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Seven day winners: 2.00 Over the Counter; 5.00 Clouds Equine.

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Victims: 2.30 Surrogate; 5.00 Surrogate.

Figures in brackets after horse's name denote days since last outing. Jumps.

3.15 E.B.F. PLUMB CENTER MAIDEN STAKES 2YO

1m 55yds £3,371 (8 declared)

1.18 11526 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.19 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.20 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

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3.45 WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH TROPHY

1m 55yds £7,035 (10 declared)

1.18 11526 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.19 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

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3.45 WILLIAM HILL SCOTTISH TROPHY

1m 55yds £7,035 (10 declared)

1.18 11526 Swamp Gracioso (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.19 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.20 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.21 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.22 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.23 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.24 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.25 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

1.26 11315 Miffy Mornay (2) (9) M O'Brien 5-7 F Martin 58.0

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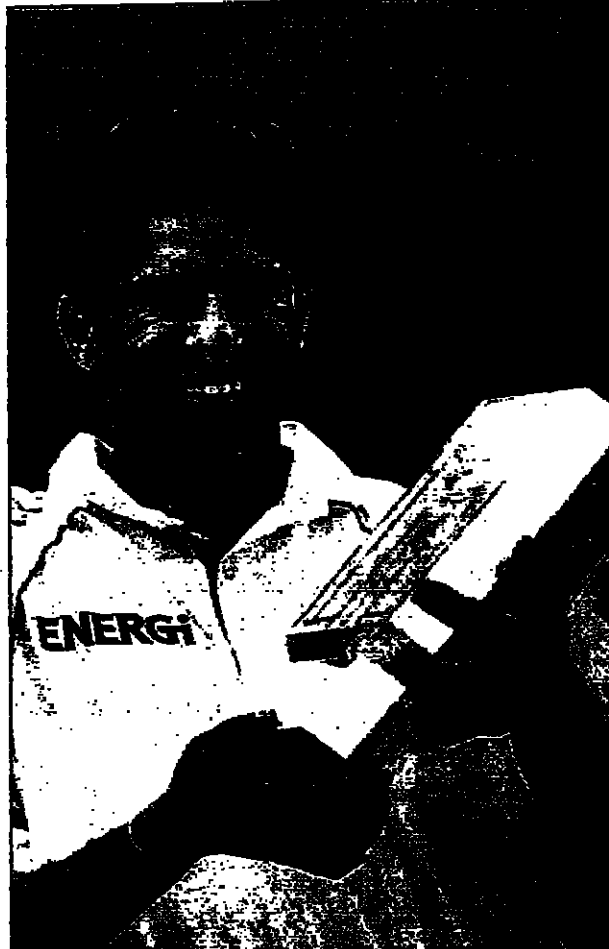
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Mike Selvey reports from Lord's on a profitable weekend's work for Lancashire



Unrooting Michael Atherton's off stump was Derbyshire's one success as Lancashire romped home for their captain Wasim Akram to collect the trophy. PHOTOGRAPH: ADRIAN MURRELL

THIS is a rumour that the sponsors of the contest would like a change to the current format of their final, which would involve two sides playing a game of cricket to decide who tosses a coin.

Once again the September fixture is expected to consist of such one-sidedness that a watchdog body — Offitk — might be needed to investigate 'unprofitable use of the word "match".'

By 1pm yesterday the Red Roaders played a game that because of inclement weather did not even start until 4.30pm on Saturday and finished for the day shortly after 7pm.

Fairbrother's 38, Derbyshire was the game far as the 15th over and no further. Wain and Martin had thrown extra runs at the batsmen in the form of wides and no balls, neither bowler setting a record for a night.

Martin was replaced by Glen Chapple and shortly after that Wain himself gave way to Austin.

Between them the bowlers began to claw back the initiative.

The collapse when it came, though, beggared belief as Slater had just driven Chapple for six over extra cover and then pulled him for four to regain the upper hand.

Austin and Chapple, who had been in the other end and in

Scoreboard

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Saturday's clammy atmosphere and low cloud mean that the toss would be crucial, but few could have anticipated to what extent Derbyshire, who needed all the help they could get in any case, got a shock of the system when howling in the opening overs after Westam Aikram predicted had sent them in to bat.</p> | <p>IN THE PITCH</p> <p>1 M. J. Goss (Leeds to Austin) 24 2 K. Barnett (Merton) 10 3 A. Pollard (Plymouth) 6 4 M. J. Goss (Leeds to Austin) 1 5 M. E. Cramer (Chaplin to Austin) 1 6 J. Edwards (Leeds to Austin) 1 7 M. J. Goss (Leeds to Austin) 1 8 P. A. Duffin (Leeds to Merton) 1 9 M. J. Goss (Leeds to Austin) 1 10 M. J. Goss (Leeds to Austin) 1 11 K. J. Barnett (Merton) 1 12 M. J. Goss (Leeds to Austin) 1</p> <p>Total (384 overs) 108</p> |
|---|---|

Instead, an improbable opening stand of 70 between Kim Barnett and Michael Slater was followed by a collapse of record-book proportions. Seven wickets fell for 11 runs against some superb bowling and some superb batting. The bowlers who bowled barrel law Austin and Peter Martin, and in all 10 wickets were for 38.

The Derbyshire total of 108 is the lowest first innings in the final of this competition, or its predecessor, and second lowest for either innings.

A target of 109 was never sufficient even to apply a modicum of pressure on a side as streetwise as Lancashire and once Mike Atherton had been missed at slip off Dominic Cork from the fourth ball of their reply the rumes had been well and truly read.

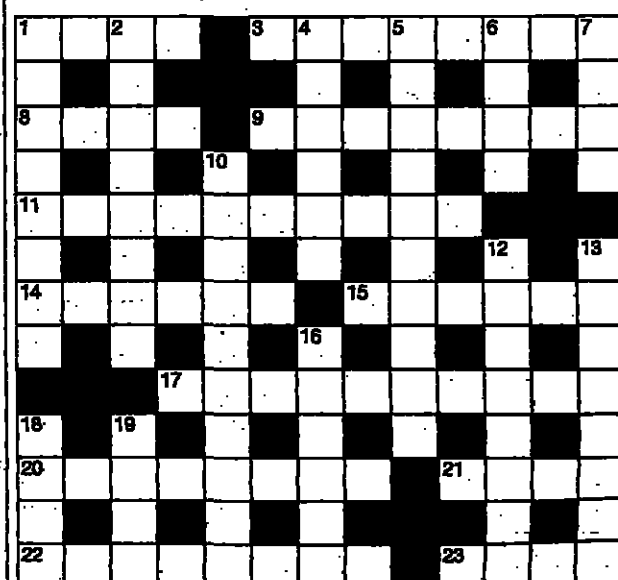
Cork got some satisfaction by uprooting Atherton's off stump with a dream delivery, but it merely served to bring Neil Featherstone back into the fray. Featherstone's appearance in Lord's final — to join John Crawley. Their unbroken second-wicket stand of 81, from 20 overs, saw Lancashire home with virtually half their scheduled overs in hand, Crawley finishing 88 not out from 92 balls with 11 immaculate boundaries to

Scoreboard

[illegible]

the following over Slater played round his pad and was hit by Wasim brought back Martin for the next over and finding his rhythm immediately, hit Barnett's leg stump without further addition.

Two more wickets fell at 71, and a further three 10 runs later, and at 92 for seven when the light closed in Cork and Karl Krikken were left with much to do yesterday if a competitive total of around 150 was to be reached. Instead, Cork was given in- caught from what seemed to be his hip. Krikken was caught behind and Vince Clarke, after three resounding smacks to the boundary, had his stump splattered.

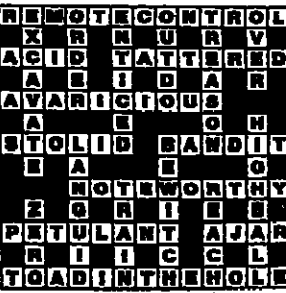
Quick Crossword No. 8846

Across

- 1 Lure (4)
- 3 A celebration of age! (8)
- 8 Manage — an investment (4)
- 9 Event (8)
- 11 Parapet (10)
- 14 Observe — a review (6)
- 18 East European — may be French! (6)
- 17 Recuperate (10)
- 20 Blameworthy (8)
- 21 Shy — actors (4)
- 22 Naughtiness (8)
- 23 Eager — to lament (4)

Down

1. Spine (8)
2. Rude (8)
4. Disregard (8)
5. Under-developed countries (5,5)
6. Eating regime — council (4)
7. Abominable snowman (4)
10. Violent deranged person (10)

**Solution No. 8844**

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